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HEAVYWEIGHT SPECIAL ISSUE

THE LAND OF THE GIANTS

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BREATHE
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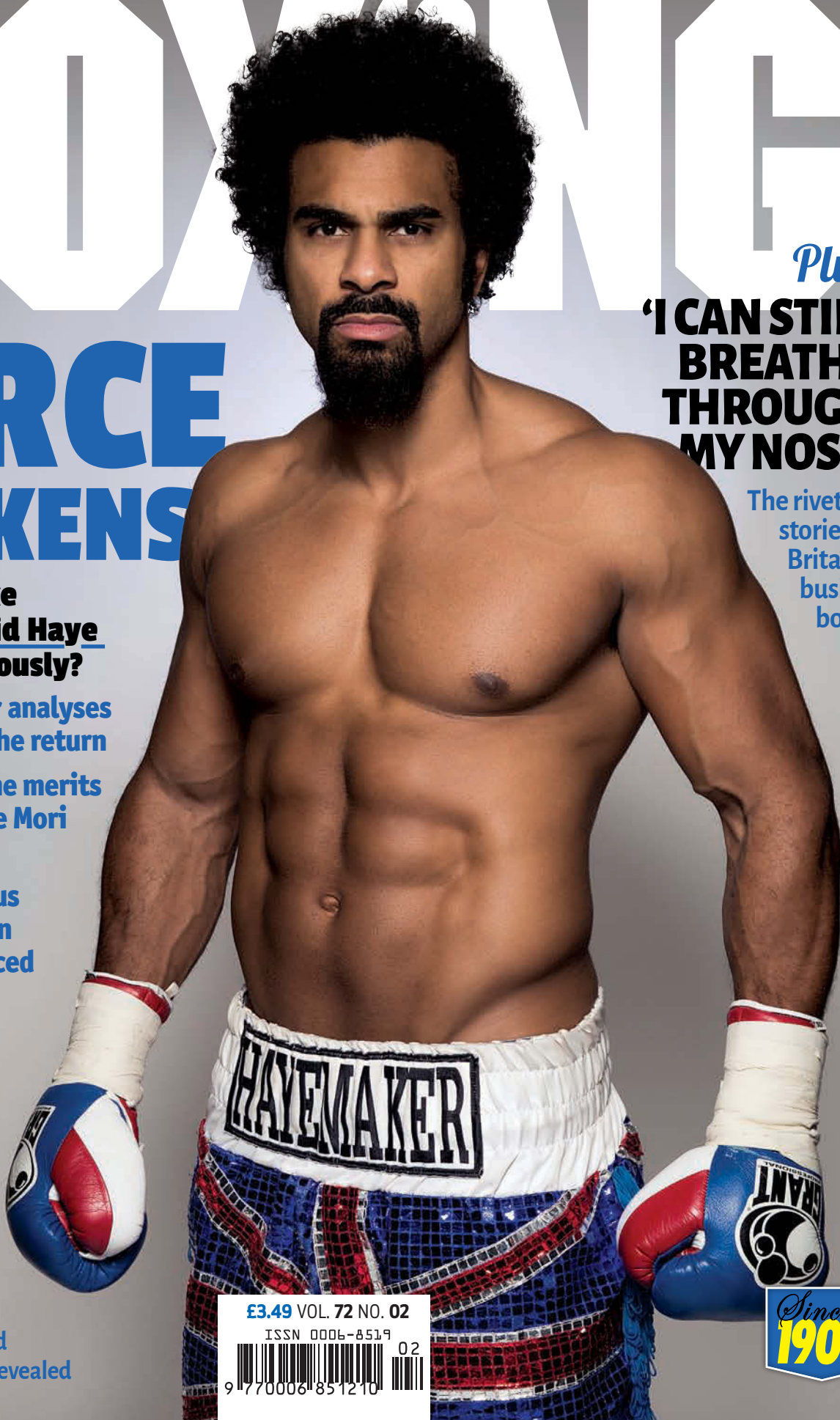
**But can we take
the latest David Haye
comeback seriously?**

- His biographer analyses the reasons for the return
- We examine the merits of Aussie Mark de Mori as an opponent
- Why the curious broadcasting plan should be embraced ... for now



**'I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
TYSON
FIGHT'**

The real driver behind
Jamie McDonnell is revealed



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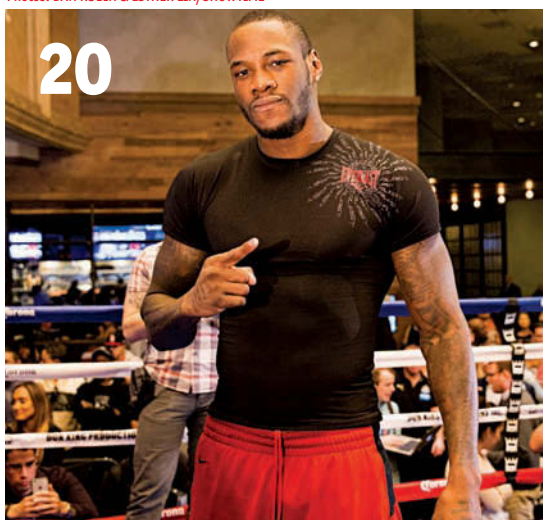
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We preview David Haye's return to the ring against Mark de Mori

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Photos: DAN RUBIN & ESTHER LIN/SHOWTIME



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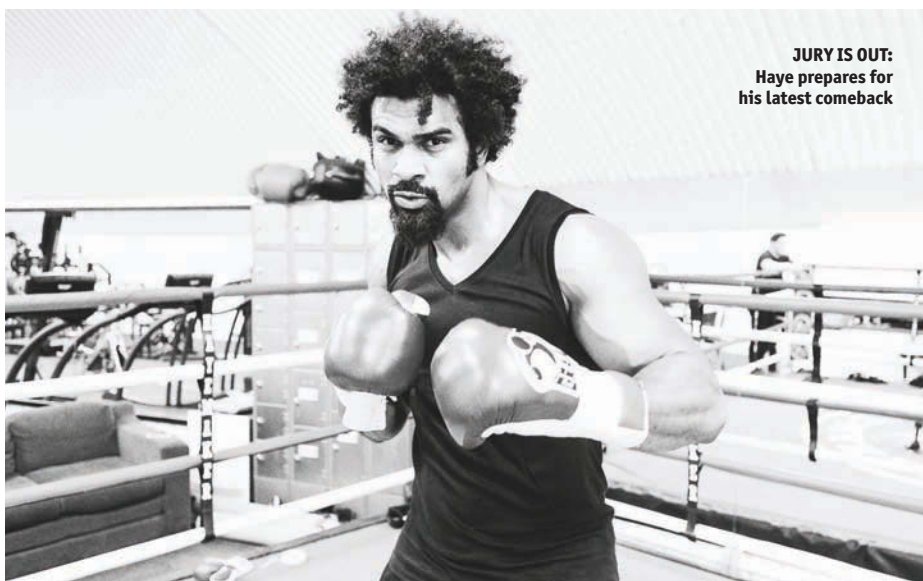
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BOXING NEWS



Photo: DAN RUBIN



JURY IS OUT:
Haye prepares for
his latest comeback



Cover photography
RUAN VAN DER SANDE

TIME WILL TELL

Haye's return should be embraced at this stage



Matt Christie

@MattCBoxingNews

Editor

AVID HAYE, the self-proclaimed master of his own destiny, is back and you can watch his return on a channel that has never shown boxing before, but shares his first name. It's so appropriate it's almost brilliant. Years ago, Haye set out to do things his own way, from the creation of his own promotional brand, right through to the retirement date he

set for himself – and (briefly) adhered to – long before he had won world titles at cruiserweight and heavyweight.

At 35 he's still young enough to make an impact in a division that has revolutionised since he departed, and his public character – as easy to love as it is to loathe – was made for the showbiz shenanigans of professional boxing. It should be welcomed but, like parts of the enthralling and underrated career that came before, the reaction among boxing fans has been lukewarm.

While it's unlikely that he'd admit it, or publicly admit much at all for that matter, Haye would surely like to be regarded as highly as the Ricky Hattons and Joe Calzaghes whom he followed onto the world stage eight years ago. But Haye's accomplishments are not held in nearly as high regard, and the

interest in his comeback does not compare to the fascination created by Hatton's ultimately ill-advised return in 2012 that saw tickets sell out within 48 hours, and excess fans watch in cinemas up and down the country. What you always got with Hatton, from a boxing standpoint, was complete honesty. His return was all about exorcising demons, to rebound from the suicidal lows of losing the two biggest fights of his career, and to discover what, if anything, he had left. With Haye, however, we know little – while presuming plenty – about the true motives of this latest instalment. As fans

we expect answers to everything, and in the modern media age, we demand more access than we have a right to. Ultimately, Haye can divulge as much or as little as he wants. His life and drivers are his business, not ours. All we should be concerned with are his performances in the ring. And with that in mind, this comeback – whatever the reasons for it – merits serious attention.

Consider what came before. The victory over Jean Marc Mormeck in Paris to claim his first world cruiserweight titles remains one of the finest performances by a Brit abroad in recent years, and the subsequent heavyweight career was far from the damp squib many regard it as today. Haye was one of the most talented fighters of his generation. While age

dictates that some of the speed and explosiveness will have disappeared, it looks certain, with new trainer Shane McGuigan at the helm, the Londoner will be in the best shape of his career – aesthetically at least.

Also consider what came afterwards. Tyson Fury has taken over the world and Anthony Joshua is the next big thing. Anyone who believes Haye's competitive edge has gone should watch his ringside analysis of Joshua's latest victory over Dillian Whyte, where he just about stops his mouth from watering all over his suit. The rivals are there, and the landscape just right, for Haye – if truly motivated and able – to thrive. Only time will tell, of course.

And we get to watch the first contest on a lad's comedy channel for free. It's certainly a move that arouses suspicion about the true public appetite surrounding his comeback, but why complain at this early stage? Be sure that plenty will tune in to watch and an impressive return – which looks almost guaranteed – can only be positive for interest levels in British boxing. And what's more, after being forced to put our hands in our pockets to witness his most recent adventures, this one's on Dave. Enjoy it for now; the time for deeper analysis comes later.

IT'S A MOVE THAT AROUSES SUSPICION ABOUT THE TRUE APPETITE SURROUNDING HIS COMEBACK

Follow us and keep up to date

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Coming next week

● AS David Haye attempts to shed three-and-a-half years of ring rust against Mark de Mori, we'll be watching carefully from ringside. We'll bring you a detailed report, analysis, and imagery of our findings from the O2 Arena in Greenwich.

● WE'RE also set to be in Brooklyn, where Deontay Wilder defends his WBC heavyweight title against Artur Szpilka, and Vyacheslav Glazkov and Charles Martin look to gatecrash the scene and nab the vacant IBF belt.

● THE intriguing welterweight clash between Danny Garcia and Robert Guerrero is previewed, and we also look ahead to the British title scrap between Ryan Walsh and Darren Traynor.

● AVAILABLE to download via iTunes and Google Play from January 19, and the print edition is in stores on January 21.

Available on the App Store

Available on Android

Photo: KLAUS FREVERT



FARCICAL AFTERMATH:
Teper [left] attacks Price
but fails drug test

DOPEY PROCEDURES

The case of Erkan Teper reveals that boxing is losing its war against drugs



**Eric
Armit**

**Historian/
Statistician**

JUST before Christmas, word leaked out of Germany that heavyweight Erkan Teper had allegedly tested positive for a banned substance after knocking out David Price to win the vacant European (EBU) title in July 2015. It also emerged Teper had given a positive test after his fight with Newfel Ouatah, when winning the EU belt in June 2014, but the controlling Bund Deutscher Berufbozers (BDB) had failed to inform the EBU, of which it was then an affiliated member. Initially Teper was given a nine-month ban by the BDB after the Ouatah fight, which was reduced to six when Teper confessed his guilt. Teper fought again in March 2015, beating Johann Duhaupas, in a bout sanctioned by the IBF, and his tests were clear.

The timeline then goes something like this: On September 21, the EBU advised the BDB that they had sanctioned a title defence for Teper against Robert Helenius, and although the BDB were already aware of the outcome of the positive test after the Price fight, they said nothing; On November 27, Teper pulled out of the Helenius defence citing an injury and vacated the title; Only on December 21 did the BDB formally advise the EBU that they had suspended Teper.

The situation is now complicated further by Teper's promoter – Z! Promotions – disputing the positive test, saying that the testing by the National Anti-Doping Agency was flawed, and

are threatening to sue the BDB for €1m, and the EBU for €500,000, if the suspension of Teper is not cancelled immediately.

The BDB's explanation for not making the results public earlier was they had rushed into stating that Sam Soliman had tested positive after his fight with Felix Sturm in 2013, before all processes had been completed, and an on-going legal action followed as a consequence. Whether this is a valid reason to not declare the positive test after the Price fight is a matter of opinion, but it certainly does not excuse the failure to report the positive test given after the Ouatah fight. The BDB have no excuse for hiding the result of that positive test. What chance is there of cleaning up boxing when the people meant to police the sport collude to cover up cheating?

So where are we now? The EBU has downgraded the BDB from affiliated status to provisional member with the situation to be discussed at the next EBU Executive meeting.

Also on-going, but thus far unrelated to either fight, is an investigation by the Munich Public Prosecutor into a raid in April 2015 when a police search of Teper's car, and a sports club where he trains, uncovered quantities of Clenbuterol, testosterone, growth hormone and Methandrostenolone.

Increasingly it seems the use of performance enhancing drugs is a problem which boxing is not set up to deal with. There is no unified approach. No worldwide database. Different bodies have different standards, use different testing laboratories/methods, administer different penalties for those caught cheating, and do not always honour each other's suspensions. Until uniform procedures are enforced, boxing remains as dirty as those caught cheating in the first place.



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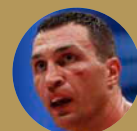
DO NOT MISS THIS
Brilliant tale of one reporter's trip – via Macau and Vegas – to The Fight of the Century



LIVE BLOG
Delivering breaking news and results from the London O2 bill where Haye headlines



MITCHELL'S FUTURE
Lightweight Kevin offers reasons for his recent loss and reveals his plans for 2016



OPENING BELL
The Boxing News team ponder if Wladimir Klitschko can rebound against Tyson Fury

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TWEETS

@PREMIERBOXING

My hand is finally back. Looking forward to testing it on Szpilka's face.

Al Haymon's PREMIER BOXING CHAMPIONS broadcasts a typically uncompromising message from Deontay Wilder concerning this weekend's WBC heavyweight title defence against Artur Szpilka.

@LENNOXLEWIS

There's no shortage of things in the world that'll keep you from your goals, only a shortage of people focused enough to stay the course.

Former world heavyweight champion LENNOX LEWIS dispenses the wisdom.

@BJSAUDERS

All you so-called boxing experts know more than me about boxing, who I should or shouldn't fight, but then what do I know, I'm only world champ.

WBO middleweight king BILLY JOE SAUNDERS reacts to all the advice he is getting about who his next opponent should be.

@BUDCRAWFORD402

Will I keep boxing if I win the lottery? Hell yeah, I love the sport. And no, WBO 140lb champion TERENCE CRAWFORD didn't scoop the recent gigantic US lottery prize.

@AARRONMORGAN

Nobody told me that after you have kids the Hoover becomes your best friend. Super-welterweight prospect AARON MORGAN finds there is more to life than boxing training.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

CONGRATULATIONS HAROLD



I WOULD like to congratulate Harold Lederman on being inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame for 2016. It's a long overdue induction. I first met Harold at the Manning Galloway-Pat Barrett weigh-in in Manchester in 1992. Harold was impressed by my knowledge of the British boxing scene, and he suggested that we correspond. We subsequently became close friends over the years.

Harold's involvement in the sport has been immense, and he's worked as a judge and pundit all around the world. The IBHOF benefits immensely from his inclusion.

Mike Hills, Glenwood Springs, Colorado

TALKING TRAINERS

UP until recently, I was confident that Manny Pacquiao would defeat Timothy Bradley with ease in a third fight between the pair. However, now that Bradley has legendary trainer Teddy Atlas in his corner, it might give Timothy a slight edge over Pacquiao, although Freddie Roach, who is, of course, Manny's coach, is a very experienced trainer too.

Ian Owen, Wallington

LITTLE-KNOWN FACT

I THOROUGHLY enjoyed James Slater's interview with American boxing promoter/manager Dennis Rappaport in the December 17, 2015 issue. A little-known story about Rappaport and his partner, Mike Jones, is this...

Rappaport and Jones came to Glasgow with their 1976 Olympic gold medallist, Howard Davis Jnr, to challenge



HALL OF FAMER:
Lederman is on his way to Canastota

Scotland's own Jim Watt for his WBC lightweight crown in June 1980 (Watt won a unanimous 15-round decision). When Rappaport and Jones learned that Scottish A-Class referee Len Mullen was a top celebrity bespoke tailor, they commissioned Mullen to make a pair of bright salmon pink boxing trunks for Davis to wear on the night against Watt. Mullen himself officiated on the undercard during that rainy evening in Glasgow, handling several bouts.

Brian Donald, Kirkcaldy

GOOD ROLE MODEL

SEVEN-FOOT giant Nikolai Valuev is a good role model, retiring from boxing at the sensible age of 36 in 2009, and is now

involved in Russian politics. His record is actually pretty good, with 50 wins, and only two losses, both by decision.

What I like about Valuev is that he made no excuses for his defeats, despite having to put up with knee troubles.

John Ford, London

POOR RIGONDEAUX

DON'T get me wrong, I love boxing and have followed it for over 50 years, but the facts are that boxing stinks sometimes. How can a brilliant, gifted boxer like Guillermo Rigondeaux be ignored by all and sundry? It's very sad for poor Guillermo. He would have been revered in an earlier era.

Stuart Greenberg, New Barnet

Photo: KIM KLEMENT/USA TODAY SPORTS

WE ASKED...



DO YOU THINK FLOYD MAYWEATHER WILL BOX AGAIN?



RICK WILLIAMS

Yes. Going 50-0 would make history – why stay 49-0? I could understand if Floyd barely got by Andre Berto, but that was a sparring session. Floyd has shown he still has it.

LOTTO THEDREAMCHILD

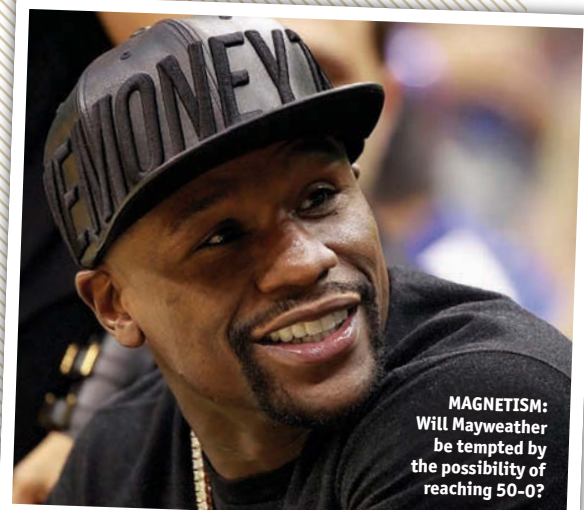
No – nobody worthy to fight. Manny Pacquiao has nothing left in the tank, and Timothy Bradley – really? Floyd's rich, no reason to fight again.

MAHMOUD AHMAD

Of course he will. Five years later or something, you'll see. Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, Sugar Ray Leonard – they all came back. Floyd's no different.

MIKE JAMES JEFFRIES

Can't see this happening! At nearly 39 and being out of the ring, he will risk ruining his legacy. Floyd is too smart to return.



MAGNETISM:
Will Mayweather be tempted by the possibility of reaching 50-0?



HEAD-2-HEAD

DEONTAY WILDER

VS DAVID HAYE

Assuming Hays gets past Mark de Mori [pages 14-19], and Wilder beats Artur Szpilka [pages 20-23], who would win a showdown between these two punchers?

JAMIE CHRISTOPHER HAMMOND

I would edge towards Hays. Wilder is really wild with his punches and often off-balance. He has the power and size to hurt Hays, but Wladimir Klitschko couldn't put Hays away.

JIM SELB

Wilder. He would stick the jabs in Hays's face for 12 rounds. Wilder is just as athletic as Hays, but bigger and stronger.

DAN DODGE

Since winning the WBC title, Wilder has looked terrible and not improved. Hays has the pedigree, power and skills to put Wilder to sleep.

CHRIS JONGLEI

Wilder is far busier than Hays, has great stamina for a heavyweight and carries his power late. Unlike Hays, Wilder has never been stopped.

STEPHEN FISH

Hays would KO Wilder, who is tailor-made for him with his lack of head movement and wide-open stance.

LLOYD HALL

Wilder has too much range, power and consistent aggression.

THE PANEL

WHICH HEAVYWEIGHT WILL MAKE THE BIGGEST IMPACT THIS YEAR?



Dave Coldwell

Top trainer

Anthony Joshua, if he has learned from the Dillian Whyte fight and goes on to improve and adapt. Perhaps Luis Ortiz, he has come from nowhere and, for a big man, he looks a great body-puncher.



Tommy Coyle

Lightweight contender

Tyson Fury, because of what he does both inside and outside the ring. I think he's got to fight the likes of Deontay Wilder and David Hays, but I'd love to see Fury versus Anthony Joshua.



Nick Blackwell

British middle titlist

I'm going to say Tyson Fury. People rate Anthony Joshua massively, but I think Fury would be too quick and too slick and shock people again, just like he did last year against Wladimir Klitschko.



Alex Arthur

Ex-WBO super-feather king

David Hays, if he's serious and his return isn't an ego boost. He's still the most dangerous heavyweight in the UK, or even the world. If he comes in shape, he's a hard guy to beat.

WHO IS THE MOST TALENTED JOURNEYMAN IN BRITISH BOXING?

Dave Coldwell

Top trainer

There's a lot to choose from. If you're talking strictly journeyman, then Kristian Lought [10-213-7]. He can negate a power-puncher or outbox a fighter. He has the full package talent-wise.

Tommy Coyle

Lightweight contender

I had my first fight against Kristian Lought [w pts 6], and he has a great defence and doesn't get hit too much. I went in all guns blazing, but he just had a way of nullifying my shots.

Nick Blackwell

British middle titlist

My brother, Dan Blackwell [6-51]. He doesn't really train, but has only been stopped once. He goes for a couple of runs and then fights. He's tough and strong, but has a family and job, so he can't commit to boxing.

Alex Arthur

Ex-WBO super-feather king

They're never in the spotlight or looked upon as someone who can cause an upset, so it's really hard to say. But, William Warburton [17-88-7] is someone who always gives a good account of himself and fights the big names.

10 COUNT

DON'T CALL IT A COMEBACK

David Hays is just the latest champion to return after a long retirement, writes **Daniel Herbert**

1. GEORGE FOREMAN

Huge puncher quit after a 1977 loss to Jimmy Young and returned a decade later, eventually regaining the world heavyweight title at 45.

2. SUGAR RAY ROBINSON

"The Sugarman" retired after failing to wrest the light-heavy belt from Joey Maxim in June 1952, only to roar back in 1955 and regain the middleweight crown.

3. RICKY HATTON

"The Hitman's" comeback three-and-a-half years after being wiped out by Manny Pacquiao ended disappointingly when Vyacheslav Senchenko KO'd him in nine in 2012.

4. EDER JOFRE

Brilliant Brazilian ruled at bantam from 1962-65, retired for three years and eventually won the featherweight crown at the age of 37 in 1973.

5. MUHAMMAD ALI

"The Greatest" announced his retirement as WBA heavy champ in 1979, but ill-advisedly returned against Larry Holmes a year later.

6. JAMES J. JEFFRIES

"The Boilermaker" quit in 1904 after a five-year reign as heavyweight king, but returned against Jack Johnson in 1910, and was crushed in 15 rounds.

7. CARLOS ZARATE

A shock 1979 bantam title loss to Lupe Pintor made the Mexican retire, but he returned in 1986 and twice contested the super-bantam title.

8. JOE LOUIS

Announced his retirement as heavyweight champion in March 1949, only for money worries to force him into a comeback that ended in defeat to Rocky Marciano.

9. SUGAR RAY LEONARD

First retirement ended with an unconvincing 1984 win over Kevin Howard, but after the second he returned to topple middleweight king Marvin Hagler in 1987.

10. BOB FOSTER

The Albuquerque sheriff quit as light-heavy king in 1974, then came back two years later for an unproductive spell at club level.

'I THINK FURY WOULD BE TOO QUICK AND TOO SLICK FOR JOSHUA'

THE WEEK

What's been going
on in the boxing world
over the last seven days

 **TRENDING** #HAYEDAY / #WILDERSZPILKA / #COTTOMARQUEZ / #FRAMPTONQUIGG

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/ANDREW COULDRIDGE



GLOBAL GOAL:
Bellew craves a
world title shot
at cruiserweight

BELLEW DROPS EBU

WEDNESDAY January 6, 2016

CRUISERWEIGHT Tony Bellew relinquishes his European title, just weeks after claiming it via tense 12-round victory over **Mateusz Masternak** in London.

The 33-year-old wants another shot at a world title as soon as possible, after two unsuccessful bids at light-heavyweight.

Ranked No. 4 by the WBO, ninth by the WBA, and 17th by the WBC, the Scouser may opt to improve his No. 6 ranking with the IBF by toppling their champion, **Victor Ramirez** of Argentina, in a summer showdown. Bellew was offered a crack at Ramirez prior to

the Argentine's shock draw with **Ovill McKenzie** in October.

Bellew's move leaves Ukrainian mandatory contender **Dmytro Kucher** awaiting an opponent to contend the vacant title.

In other EBU news, the deadline for purse bids for the proposed rematch between heavyweight champion **Robert Helenius** and Britain's **Dereck Chisora** has been set for January 21. Should that bout take place, the winner would likely become a target for **Anthony Joshua**.

In December 2011, Helenius – who would later claim he was injured – received a gift hometown split decision over "Del Boy" in Helsinki, Finland.

MORGAN'S CHANCE

THURSDAY January 7, 2016

SWINDON'S **Kelly Morgan**, 3-0 (1), looks set to challenge for a WBC belt this year after her trainer, Richard Farnan, was contacted by the organisation about a Silver middleweight title fight.

The 35-year-old fighter, a former netball star who claimed a 2002 Commonwealth Games bronze in the javelin, is one of just five female professionals in the UK and plans to attend the WBC Female Convention in Mexico after raising over £2,000 in sponsorship to fund the trip.

"We'll come back [from the

convention] with the fight agreed and hopefully the opponent confirmed, either **Elene Sikmashvili** or **Tunde Berki**," Farnan tells *Boxing News*. "If Kelly wins this it will set her up to fight for the world crown this summer, which is currently vacant."

Morgan's most recent performance – a points win over **Szilvia Szabados** in December – illustrated how far she's come since turning pro last year.

"I'm hugely proud of her," Farnan says. "She works so hard and this has been her one true goal, just to have the opportunity means everything."

Photo: ADAM HALE



BIG YEAR AHEAD:
Morgan may well
challenge for the WBC
crown in the summer

Photo: ERNESTO PEREZ/HOGAN PHOTOS/ROC NATION



CLASH OF LEGENDS: An interesting match-up between Cotto [pictured] and Marquez has been mentioned

ROACH WANTS JMM FOR COTTO

FRIDAY January 8, 2016

IT'S almost certain that **Miguel Cotto** will fight on after his November loss to **Saul "Canelo" Alvarez** as the Puerto Rican's coach tells *Boxing News* that a showdown with great Mexican veteran **Juan Manuel Marquez** at welterweight has been discussed.

"I'd like to see him fight Marquez, and his team seemed to like the idea," Freddie Roach tells us.

"I don't know if it will go anywhere, but it might. That would probably be at 147lbs, I think we

can still make that weight. I don't think Miguel will go any lower – 147 to 150lbs would be good."

Marquez, whose future remains uncertain, is not the only fighter on Cotto's radar.

"**Terence Crawford** keeps popping up for these guys, but I don't think he's ready for this level yet. I think he's a great prospect and a future star, but I just don't know if he's ready for **[Manny] Pacquiao** and Cotto yet."

Cotto's conqueror, Alvarez, has been mentioned as a possible opponent for middleweight terror

Gennady Golovkin in a 2016 superfight.

"I like 'GGG' to win that fight," Roach opines. "I think he's a little bit stronger, but Canelo showed last time how big and good he is. Cotto couldn't hurt him, he's just a really big guy when he gets in the ring... They've both got tune-up fights first – I hate tune-up fights. I don't know why they don't just go for each other right away."

The full exclusive interview with Roach, where he discusses Pacquiao in detail, will appear in next week's *Boxing News*.

“QUOTE OF THE WEEK”

‘I HATE TUNE-UP FIGHTS. I DON’T KNOW WHY THEY JUST DON’T GO FOR EACH OTHER RIGHT AWAY’

Esteemed trainer Freddie Roach implores Gennady Golovkin and Canelo Alvarez to get it on

Photo: CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK



AVOIDED MAN:
Crawford is having
trouble nailing down
a top-class opponent

CRAWFORD GETS HANK

SATURDAY January 9, 2016

ONE of the casualties of **Manny Pacquiao's** decision to meet **Timothy Bradley** for a third time was rising WBO super-lightweight boss **Terence Crawford**, who hoped to snare the ageing Filipino in a fascinating crossroads fight. Instead, the Nebraska star will take on the underwhelming “Hammerin’” **Hank Lundy** on February 27 at the Theater in Madison Square Garden, New York. As well as Pacquiao, it is believed that WBC titlist, **Viktor Postol**, as well as contenders **Ruslan Provodnikov** and **Lucas Mattheysse** also rejected the opportunity to take on Crawford.

It is no surprise that Lundy – who has lost two of his last three – accepted the opportunity.

“This is the type of fight I have been waiting for,” Lundy declares. “The last couple of fights I have beaten guys but didn’t get the fair shake. If you’re a true boxing fan, you know I belong in the ring with the best fighters in the world. I’m the type of guy that no one wants to fight because I’m the real deal. On February 27 I’m coming to Madison Square Garden to fight Crawford, and on the 28th I’ll be leaving with his belt.”

On the undercard, lightweight Puerto Rican **Felix Verdejo** – another fighter tipped for the very top – takes on unproven Brazilian fighter **William Silva** in a 10-rounder.

HERE WE GO AGAIN

SUNDAY January 10, 2016

THE WBA demands that the winner of the February super-bantamweight showdown between their champion **Scott Quigg**, and IBF boss **Carl Frampton**, must then fight their former king, **Guillermo Rigondeaux** on or before July 27.

The WBA, in all their wisdom, stripped Rigondeaux of the title last year due to inactivity and promoted Quigg from ‘regular’ to Super champion. Now they have announced they will strip the winner of Quigg-Frampton if they don’t fight Rigondeaux promptly. Not only that, they also state that the bids must be stacked 55/45 in the Cuban’s favour.

Meanwhile, the IBF announce that whoever wins one of the most eagerly awaited fights in boxing will then have 90 days to defend their title against Japanese **Shingo Wake**.

All things considered, it is going to be virtually impossible for Quigg or Frampton to keep hold of both belts unless they fulfil two mandatory demands within three months. It is complete lunacy.

Yet again, the sanctioning bodies have no apparent interest in unified titles or working together for the good of the sport.

Perhaps one or both fighters should save themselves the hassle and relinquish their title now – after all, it is the fight, and not the belts, that fans are paying to see.

WARD-BARRERA?

MONDAY January 11, 2016

THE manager of light-heavyweight contender **Sullivan Barrera** claims their charge will take on **Andre Ward** on March 26 in the pound-for-pound star’s Oakland backyard. It is reported that Ward’s team initially approached Barrera about a possible fight in July 2015, which was rejected – in favour of fighting and beating **Karo Murat** in an IBF eliminator – but the Barrera camp are now ready to accept.

“These last few weeks have been a lot of negotiations,” Luis Molina tells boxing reporter, George Ebro. “I just asked for two things: being on HBO and fair financial parameters for our boxer. They complied with that and we are happy to face a great opponent like Ward.”

The Cuban, 33, is 17-0 (12) but has not met anyone approaching Ward’s class. No matter, says Molina.

“We will not subtract an inch of merit from Ward because we know how complete he is inside the ring. But he’s fought very little, his current level is unknown, and Sullivan is in the prime of his career.”

In November, Ward stated to *Boxing News* and other media outlets his desire to fight IBF, WBO and WBA Super world 175lb leader **Sergey Kovalev** as soon as possible.

Beating Barrera – the IBF mandatory – could certainly speed up the process.

Photo: ED MULHOLLAND/K2



MANDATORY MEETING:
Interim WBA titlist
Ortiz [pictured] has to
face Ustinov on or
before June 19

ORTIZ ORDERED

TUESDAY January 12, 2016

DESPITE having active Super and ‘regular’ world heavy champions (**Tyson Fury** and **Ruslan Chagaev** respectively), the WBA demand their Interim titlist, **Luis Ortiz**, must defend his belt against **Alexander Ustinov** on or before June 19. The Cuban defended his title against **Bryant Jennings** in December, just two months after winning it, and Russian veteran Ustinov is ranked down at No. 7 in their most recent ratings. The WBA claim that the Ortiz-Jennings winner was contractually obliged to fight Ustinov within six months. It should also be noted that Interim titles were designed to fill a gap if champions were inactive – simply not the case here.

RETURN OF THE LIONHEARTS

THE British Lionhearts announces details of its home fixtures for the 2016 season of the World Series of Boxing (WSB).

All home matches will take place at Bethnal Green’s York Hall, with the first on February 18 against the Mexico Guerreros. Tickets are exclusively available to *Boxing News* readers until Monday January 18 for £15 at www.sky.com/tickets.

The USA Knockouts visit on March 3, and the Morocco Atlas Lions make the trip on March 17. A season ticket is available for all three home matches, priced at £30.

IN BRIEF

GRANT STABBED

FORMER English super-lightweight title challenger **Michael Grant** [below] is out of hospital and stable after being the victim of a horror stabbing in a London park.

Reports say that Grant, who lives in Hackney, was walking home through the park, talking on his mobile phone, when he felt something in his back. He turned around to give chase, only to realise he couldn't run – because he had been stabbed.

The blade went through his scapula and broke two ribs, punctured his lung and left Grant with internal bleeding.

Police said that stabbing a random victim is the initiation ceremony of a local gang.

Grant, 32, last boxed in February 2014, outpointing **Billy Morgan** over six rounds at the Copper Box Arena. That was his 14th pro win (one early) against four defeats and one draw.

An ABA champion in 2005, Michael made his pro debut in July that year and went unbeaten in his first 13 fights (one draw). After losing his unbeaten record on a cut-eye stoppage to **Jason Cook** in a 2009 *Prizefighter* tournament quarter-final, he suffered three more defeats in his next four fights, although he was stopped only by future WBO lightweight champion **Terry Flanagan**.

Boxing News wishes Grant a speedy and full recovery.



Photo: ACTION IMAGES/CRAIG BROUGH



ENEMY TERRITORY: Manchester's WBO lightweight champ Terry Flanagan [left] clutches his belt, clenches his fist, and shows no sign of emotion as he stands alongside February 13 challenger Derry Mathews at the Liverpool Hilton

HUGHES PASSES AT 84

Darkie was better than the Charnley result, writes Daniel Herbert

DARKIE HUGHES, who has died aged 84, will forever be known for one disastrous night at Nottingham Ice Rink in November 1961, when Dave Charnley knocked him out in just 40 seconds to retain his British, Empire (now Commonwealth) and European lightweight belts.

It was the fastest ever ending in a British title contest.

From the Docks area of Cardiff, David Hughes was the son of a Trinidad-born seaman who perished when his boat was torpedoed in 1942. At a time when the colour of his skin meant he stood out, 'Darkie' was bullied at school, so took up boxing aged 12.

In 1953 he became ABA light-welter (140lb) champion with a finals victory over soldier Terry Molloy, who in his semi had beaten a future amateur great in Nicky Gargano.

Darkie didn't hang around, turning pro a few weeks later with George Middleton, the man who had guided Randy Turpin to the word middleweight title. But progress was slow, and after being outpointed

in a vacant Welsh Area lightweight title fight against former champ Willie Lloyd (July 1956), the smart-boxing but light-punching Hughes switched to Benny Jacobs as manager.

Things improved and 1960 brought points wins over Dave Stone in an eliminator, then former featherweight champ Billy "Spider" Kelly in a final eliminator. Yet it would be a year before the Welshman would share a ring with the southpaw Charnley, who was

busy with other commitments – including losing a disputed verdict to Joe Brown in a world title bid.

Charnley was such a hot favourite that, incredibly, he had a

fight lined up against American LC Morgan just seven days later. Dave, annoyed at what he considered a low-paying chore, dropped him twice, the second time for the count.

Hughes, a boilermaker by trade, boxed twice more before finishing in 1964 with a record of 33 wins (10 early), 11 defeats and two draws. In retirement he sat for many years on the Welsh Area Council of the Board of Control.

DARKIE DIDN'T
HANG AROUND
IN TURNING
PRO

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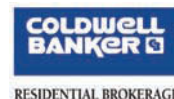
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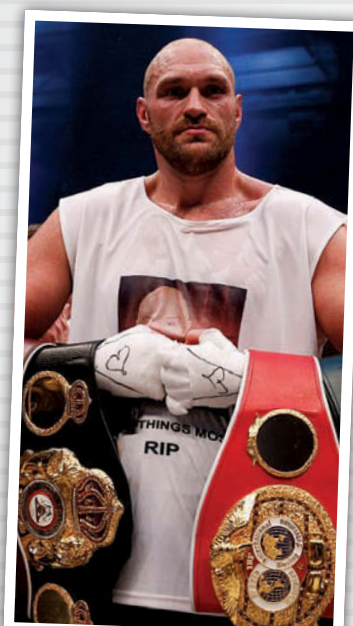


The LAND of the

With a huge weekend for the heavyweight division approaching, **Matt Christie**

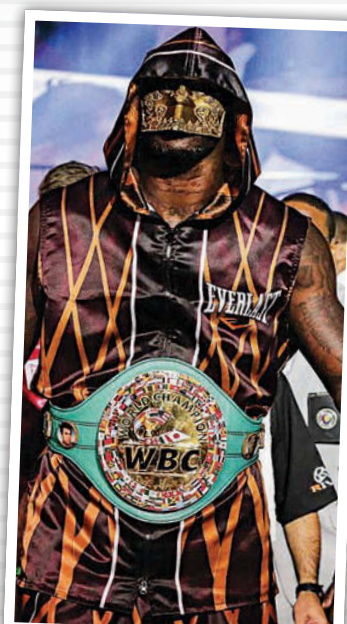
THE CHAMPION

DON'T let the sanctioning bodies fool you, there is only one king here. Britain's **Tyson Fury's** [pictured] win over Ukraine's long-term leader Wladimir Klitschko was a true passing of the torch moment in the division's history. His short-term future – besides fending off the ferocious British media – appears to be tied up in an immediate rematch with the ageing former champion. Win that, and a world of opportunity and riches opens up before him. Despite his recent coronation, his fluent yet unorthodox skills remain underrated, and the WBA Super and WBO champ, still only 27, should be made favourite over anyone.



BELT-HOLDERS

WBC boss **Deontay Wilder** [pictured], 30, notched two entertaining but flawed defences following the Alabama slugger's belt-winning effort over Bermane Stiverne last year. He needs a big showing against Poland's Artur Szpilka on Saturday [see pages 20-23]... On the same bill, Ukrainian Vyacheslav Glazkov takes on American Charles Martin [see pages 20-23] for the vacant IBF strap that was stripped from Fury... The WBA's spurious 'regular' titlist, 37-year-old Uzbek **Ruslan Chagaev**, defends against Aussie Lucas Browne in March... Cuba's 36-year-old **Luis Ortiz** is threatening, but his Interim WBA bauble carries little value.



TOP CONTENDERS

WHAT does **Wladimir Klitschko** [pictured] have left at 39? Logic would say not much, but plenty of fading stars have turned in one last great showing to cement legacies. Don't bet against the studious Klitschko doing just that... Former WBA 'regular' champion **Alexander Povetkin** is arguably the most skilled in the division, carries hellacious power when in range, and even at 36, is a danger to all... **Kubrat Pulev**, 34, was made to look ordinary by Klitschko in 2013 yet the Bulgarian, though lacking worldwide appeal, would represent an excellent scalp for any names above him.



LEADING PROSPECTS

BRIT **Anthony Joshua** [pictured] is arguably the most promising heavy starlet since the 1990s, yet the 26-year-old's second-round stumble against Dillian Whyte proved he is not invincible... Like Joshua, New Zealand's **Joseph Parker** is ranked highly by the governing bodies, carries serious power, and at 23, is improving rapidly... Despite his lofty family ties, **Hughie Fury** largely flies under the radar, but his skillset is admirable and the 21-year-old looks set for a big future... Swedish banger **Adrian Granat**, 24, is feasting on ageing names, and California's 26-year-old **Andy Ruiz's** nimble boxing belies his hearty frame.



GIANTS

provides an overview of the key fighters hoping to make an impact in 2016

GATEKEEPERS

THE division is loaded with fringe contenders clamouring for one last shot at the big time, and as a consequence, they remain dangerous. Philadelphia's **"Fast" Eddie Chambers** [pictured] is perhaps the most talented, and ambitious, but at 33 probably lacks the youth, and power, to be a factor... Californian **Chris Arreola**, 34, will soon be fed to a rising prospect, though his efforts could prove fun... Hard to forgive Philly's 35-year-old **Malik Scott** for his farcical 2014 loss to Wilder, but his recent win over perennial contender and fellow American **Tony Thompson**, 44, allowed him to regain some relevance.



WILDCARDS

THOSE with longer memories would have raised their eyebrows when **Ike Ibeabuchi** – a true terror in his prime – announced his plans to return to the ring at the age of 42. The Nigerian has been out of the ring since 1999, and spent most of that time imprisoned... 35-year-old Brit **David Haye** [pictured – whose impending scrap with Aussie Mark de Mori is analysed on pages 14-19] has a far better chance of regaining his former standing, but success is not guaranteed after three-and-a-half years out... Injury-ravaged EBU champ **Robert Helenius**, 32, remains unbeaten, but the Finn has a long way to go to fulfil early promise.



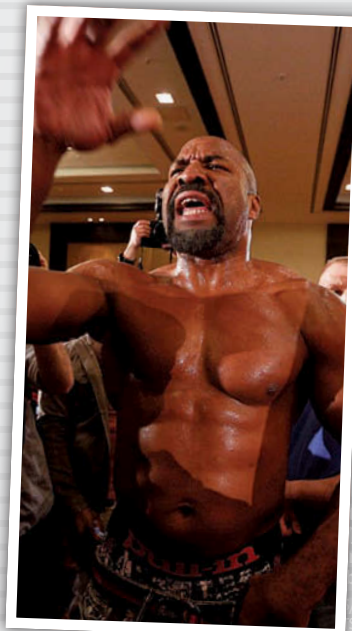
BRITISH BULLDOGS

THE Sauerlands have two faltering British big men they retain hope for: Finchley's **Dereck Chisora**, 32, has won four since he was trounced by Fury in their 2014 rematch (made almost respectable by Tyson's rise to the top), and can be a factor at European level at least; Liverpool's **David Price's** [pictured] future is less secure but news that Erkan Teper was doping before knocking him cold last year offers the heavy-handed 32-year-old a route back... Let's not forget Brixton's **Dillian Whyte**, 27, who proved against Joshua he has the potential, if managed correctly, to join his conqueror on the world scene.



DINOSAURS

BROOKLYN'S **Shannon Briggs** [pictured], 44, has been trying to goad a lucrative opponent into a contest for years – his latest target is Fury after Wilder and Klitschko ignored him – but has done nothing, bar the odd entertaining social media post, worthy of attention... A professional since 1986, hammered by Tony Tucker, Michael Moorer, and Frans Botha in the 90s, and coming in at over 300lbs, Arizona-born 51-year-old **"Bronco" Billy Wright** has somehow secured a top 20 ranking with the WBC. If boxing wasn't such a dangerous sport, his presence would be laughable.



PREVIEWS

*Previewing the best
upcoming fights
around the world*

★★★★★ OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ GOOD ★★★★★ FAIR ★★ DISAPPOINTING ★ RUBBISH

The star ratings indicate how well the writer believes the fighters match up, the fight(s)' contextual significance, and how good the fight(s) will be

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/HENRY BROWNE

INDEPENDENCE HAYE

It's been three-and-a-half years since David Haye last had a professional prize fight. The star's long-time friend and biographer, **Elliot Worsell**, ponders the merits of his return

**'I'VE ALWAYS DONE
IT MY OWN WAY...'**



O'Donnell-Singleton

The winner will fight for the British title

PAGE 19



Wilder-Szpilka

Deontay defends for the third time

PAGE 20



Martin-Glazkov

The vacant IBF heavy crown is up for grabs

PAGE 20



★★★★☆ MAIN EVENT

★★★★☆ UNDERCARD

T

HIS isn't a preview I ever envisaged writing, nor one I ever hoped to write, but **David Haye**, a close friend of mine for well

over a decade, is back fighting in 2016 and this Saturday night (January 16) at Greenwich's O2 Arena will engage in his first bout for three-and-a-half years against Australia's **Mark de Mori**.

Once the best cruiserweight on the planet, Haye is now 35 and has boxed only five times in the last seven years. His non-title 10-rounder with de Mori, televised in the UK on Dave, is one that should conclude quickly and clinically and tell us very little, but beyond that the talk is of all-British blockbusters against the likes of Tyson Fury and Anthony Joshua, two huge, hungry young men who weren't even professionals when Haye was an established world champion. Time, I guess, stops for no man.

Believe it or not, it's over four years now since David invited journalists to his gym in Vauxhall to formally announce his retirement from the sport of professional boxing. He turned 31 that day and his last fight was a points loss to Wladimir Klitschko in Hamburg, Germany. That the decision to retire was a ruse was perhaps the worst kept secret in boxing at the time, but Haye, stubborn and full

of pride, had made a promise to retire on his 31st birthday and therefore any waiving of said deadline would, in his view, represent some sort of failure.

So that afternoon, with a birthday cake made especially for him, he did his utmost to convince sceptical journalists that this truly was The End, and that he was more than content with all he had achieved in a glittering professional career which started back in December 2002 and led to WBC, WBO and WBA Super world cruiser titles, as well as the WBA version of the heavyweight crown.

Combating wry smiles and sideways glances, he recalled his proudest moments and poured scorn on the very concept of regret. No mention was there of any rematch with Klitschko. Who cared? He was done. Finished. And the fact he was retiring at 31, on his terms, sticking to a plan he and (trainer/manager) Adam Booth constructed at the very start of their journey, surely meant he had won, even if his last fight ended in disappointment.

Few were buying it, though. Few envisaged Haye exiting on a dud note, one punctuated by countless toe-based punch lines, and even fewer believed he would be able to spend prime athletic years sat idly watching others fail to dethrone Klitschko. But what could any of them do? If Haye had brought them to his gym with the sole intention of telling them he had retired, that was all there was to it. Retired. Officially. From the horse's mouth.

They were all oblivious to the ➤

TALKING POINT

NO heavyweight champion in history has managed to regain their prime form after a lengthy layoff. Even Muhammad Ali and George Foreman, the most successful returnees, were forced to become different fighters, and adapt to the rigours of time, to succeed.

► fact there was an entirely different plot unfolding inside the gym's office, of course, where Haye would emerge every 15 minutes or so to ask, "Do you think they're buying it? Do I sound believable?" He'd be grinning from ear-to-ear, enjoying the very idea that anything he said at the time, whether truth or nonsense, was to be reported and treated as gospel; the scamp, the troublemaker, even when a plan had gone awry – retirement on his 31st birthday – he somehow ensured he retained control of the situation and secured a moral victory.

It took some time, and an unsightly ruckus at a press conference, but Haye did eventually return to the ring nine months later. He needed a redemption fight and, in the form of fellow Londoner Dereck Chisora, was gifted the perfect opponent; similar-sized, not a heavy puncher, solid chin, entertaining style and someone Haye disliked enough to find the motivation to train. The only thing more perfect than the opponent, from Haye's point of view, was the result itself, a scintillating fifth-round stoppage victory in front of 35,000 fans inside West Ham's Upton Park stadium.

Save for the biblical downpour that July night, it was as good a note as any on which to bow out. Fully redeemed, heroic Haye could smile

again. He cracked a brooding Chisora so clean and so hard he turned him back into a nice guy. They made up and forgot their differences. And Great Britain, that fickle lot, forgot all about his toe.

His popularity continued to soar later that year when he appeared on ITV's *I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!* and placed third.

Over the course of 20 days in the Australian jungle, the watching viewers were treated to a version of David Haye full of charm, kindness and self-deprecation, and he was once again saying all the right things at the right time. By the end of 2012 his stock was as high as it had ever been. He was a mainstream star. King of the jungle. The people's champ.

But then 2013 happened. A scheduled June clash with Manuel Charr in Manchester was canned and a September date with Tyson Fury went the same way due to a cut Haye picked up

one week before the bout. Consequently, dark clouds began to circle and renewed cynical scowls greeted his every word. Toe jokes were cruelly rehashed.

Undeterred, Haye sought refuge in the gym and planned for a rescheduled date with Fury in the first quarter of 2014.

What he didn't account for, however, was

his body breaking down in training and a potentially career-ending shoulder injury ruling him out for the foreseeable future. A 'gypsy curse' he'd jokingly call it. Whatever the reason, he was soon to be gone again. Seemingly for good this time.

Well, not quite. Haye doesn't do silence, you see. Murmurs

of a comeback started as far back as November 2014, and continued through much of 2015, as the former champion repaired his damaged shoulder and busied himself with other projects, yet all it ever seemed to amount to was frustrating foreplay. Some assumed he

TALE OF THE TAPE

| DAVID HAYE | | MARK DE MORI |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| @mrdavidhaye | | @MarkdeMori |
| Oct 13, 1980/35 | DOB/AGE | Feb 11, 1982/33 |
| Bermondsey | HOMETOWN | Split, Croatia |
| English | NATIONALITY | Australian |
| 6ft 3ins | HEIGHT | 6ft 2ins |
| 26-2 (24) | RECORD | 30-1-2 (26) |
| Orthodox | STANCE | Orthodox |
| Dec 8, 2002/22 | DEBUT/AGE | Feb 20, 2004/22 |
| 86 | KO PERCENTAGE | 79 |
| 6 | WORLD TITLE FIGHTS | 0 |
| 6 | WORLD CHAMPIONS BEATEN | 0 |

Photos: ACTION IMAGES/HENRY BROWNE

VANITY PROJECT:
De Mori [right] already
looks out of his depth





'I LEARNT FROM JAMES TONEY, WHO HAD GREAT DEFENCE AND DIDN'T RUN AWAY'

was just trying to keep his name in the limelight. Some accused him of being a world-class procrastinator. Others said worse.

Then, last November, days before Tyson Fury dethroned Wladimir Klitschko to win the world heavyweight title, Haye did indeed officially announce his comeback. New team, new logo, new hairstyle. More importantly, an opponent and a date.

That afternoon the little-known Mark de Mori inspired many to consult BoxRec and inspect his 30-1-2 (26) record, aesthetically-pleasing enough, and to also scan YouTube for clips of him in action. It was presumably then that they realised this could end up being Haye's Peter McNeeley moment. Quick and crazy. Over before it has even begun. But, following a three-and-a-half-year layoff, that's just fine.

For the optimists among us, Perth-born de Mori has 26 knockouts from 30 wins, which clearly demonstrates he can punch a bit, albeit at a substandard level, and he's also undefeated for

over 11 years, which should mean he's confident and accustomed to being in the ascendancy. Better yet, and likely the main reason he was chosen in the first place, the 33-year-old somehow finds himself rated at number 10 by the WBA.

He's a hard-nosed trier, if nothing else. The story goes that he suffered chronic asthma attacks throughout his childhood and then defied the odds to learn how to box in his father's garage. Ostensibly a voyeur, he ogled YouTube footage of fighters and fights and recreated the moves he witnessed. "I used to have professional and amateur trainers but was never happy with how things were going," de Mori [left] explained. "That's when I started studying tapes of the best fighters in the world, especially defensive fighters. One of my favourites was James Toney. I learnt a huge amount from him because he was a short, bulky guy who had great defence but didn't run away."

With just a handful of amateur fights to his name, de Mori turned professional in February 2004, only to suffer his first loss seven months later when knocked out by fellow Aussie John Wyborn in the very first round. What now constitutes an unsightly boil on an otherwise handsome set of statistics, de Mori, to his credit, has remained unbeaten ever since and, in recent years, has shown a commendable desire to leave the club circuit in Australia and take fights in Germany, USA and Croatia, where he's been based since 2013. He's improved. He's grown. He's been willing to step up. The opposition, however, has remained ugly.

What's more, to watch de Mori is to watch a fighter who has unashamedly learnt all he knows from studying others. As such, he's a one-man compilation tape, a homage to icons of yesteryear. There are moments when he drops his left hand and tries to fight with the fluidity of Toney, there are moments when he aggressively punches in combination and goes to the body, and there are moments when he simply jabs, over and over again, as if having ➤



SIDEWAYS GLANCE:
Haye is looking ahead
to domestic riches

THIS COULD END UP BEING HAYE'S PETER MCNEELEY MOMENT. QUICK AND CRAZY. OVER BEFORE IT HAS EVEN BEGUN



EXPERT VIEW

DARREN BARKER
RETURNED FROM INJURY

IT'S difficult coming back from an injury. Firstly, it has to have healed up well. It's important the operation has been successful and David is physically ready. Then, as long as there are no mental scars, a comeback can be a positive thing. I was so fed up of being injured and there was no better feeling than getting back in the ring. A Haye win is a formality. De Mori is an unknown but, from what I've seen, he is limited. I expect only a handful of rounds in the fight, and then some mouth-watering domestic heavyweight blockbusters for Haye in 2016.

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/HENRY BROWNE



EMPTY ARENA: Haye [left] and de Mori are expecting more to be present on fight night

► watched a Larry Holmes montage on slow-motion moments before entering the ring. It all shows a great knowledge of the sport and an eagerness to absorb images and information, but none of the moves are performed smoothly, nor look particularly natural, and the overwhelming impression is that he's often stuck between styles and heroes.

Against an opponent like Haye, an instinctive, natural fighter who has been

perfecting his own art since the age of 10, this could lead to de Mori's downfall, for while he's thinking and remembering, Haye will likely be doing. And, in heavyweight boxing, that split-second delay usually makes all the difference.

For Haye, meanwhile, cornered for the first time by trainer Shane McGuigan, this fight should be viewed as a routine confidence-builder, one that comes with the added bonus of an unlikely world ranking, and a chance to add to an already-impressive highlight reel. After all, de Mori, on paper at least, arguably represents the softest challenge Haye, 26-2 (24), will have faced as a professional heavyweight, and he will take comfort both from that and the fact the

Australian, at 6ft 2ins, will be well within punching range and open to be nailed by right hands for as long as the fight lasts. Alas, providing Haye [pictured left with sparring partner Wadi Camacho] suffers no shoulder issues, nor any ring rust or fitness woes, his power alone should be enough to take care of de Mori inside the first or second round.

Beyond the inevitability of the result,

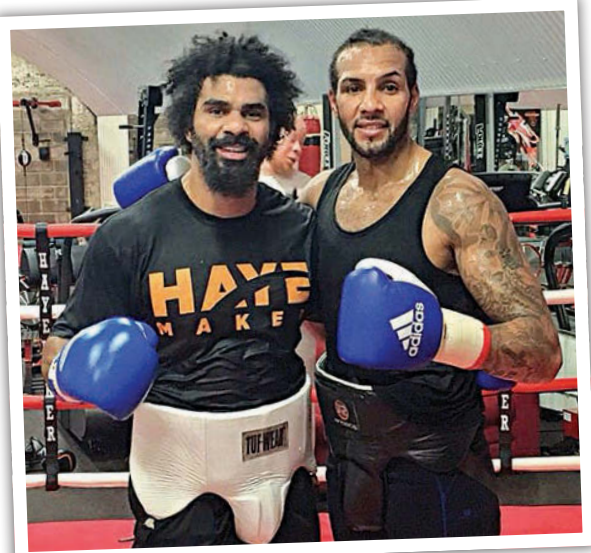
all that's left to assess is the project itself. We know the men backing Haye are Andrew and Simon Salter, masterminds behind an online testicular cancer awareness campaign, and we also know the likes of MC Harvey, James Haskell, Dizzee Rascal, Tamzin Outhwaite and the entire staff of the Lad Bible are so keen to claim ringside tickets they will help promote the fight on social media.

Other than that, though, it's hard to know what to make of it all. There's vague talk of algorithms and viral videos, and it's being treated very much like a showbiz event, ambitiously titled 'Haye Day', but whether this amounts to a lot of tickets being bought by the paying public or instead being gift-wrapped and

given to celebrities will only be revealed on Saturday night.

"I've always done it my own way," Haye said. "These young guys (the Salter brothers) wanted to make a difference and I've been looking at what they've done and been mesmerised by the way they do business and the amount of people they reach. I thought, how could you use this algorithm on boxing?"

**'YOU'LL
SEE THE
DIFFERENCE
FROM
TRADITIONAL
PROMOTERS'**





They don't see any reason why it wouldn't work. You'll see the difference between how they do business and how traditional boxing promoters do business."

Traditional boxing promoter Steve Goodwin provides a competitive British welterweight title eliminator between **John O'Donnell** and **Shayne Singleton**, which should reassure those fearful of a blowout in the main event.

O'Donnell's appearance on the

O2 Arena undercard makes sense for more reasons than just the fact he's a Londoner. He, like Haye, has endured frustrating periods of inactivity and last year returned to the ring following two years out to score points wins over Eastern European journeymen Jan Balog and Laszlo Fazekas. Prior to that he'd beaten the likes of Terrance Cauthen, Craig Watson and Tom Glover, and claimed the Commonwealth welterweight title. At one point he was

being touted as the next big thing.

Colne's Singleton, meanwhile, has been far busier of late. A former English super-lightweight champion, last year he waged a five-round brawl with Sam Eggington, and in 2014 he boxed four times. Tough, determined and armed with a high workrate, Shayne "The Pain", 21-1 (7), will do his best to make O'Donnell, 30-2 (11), feel starved of competitive fights and regret being away from the ring for so long; at 26, Singleton is four years younger than O'Donnell and knows there's a good chance he's getting the former amateur star at the right time.

All things being equal, though, and assuming O'Donnell hasn't lost something in recent years, one imagines the former Dale Youth ABC standout's class, greater experience and lefty awkwardness will see him prevail, perhaps over the 10-round distance.

There are also ticking-over fights for returning battlers **Tony Dodson** and **Wadi Camacho**, as well as unbeaten prospects **Kay Prospero**, **Jose Lopes** and **Josh Kennedy**. **BN**

THE PAST:
Haye's [left] loss to Klitschko is already over four years old

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/JASON CAIRNDUFF



HANGING AROUND:
O'Donnell can secure a British title shot

THE VERDICT This is likely to be fun, but what lies ahead will answer more questions about Haye's comeback mission.

ALL SMILES:
But Wilder is yet to truly
capitalise on his WBC title

Photo: MARVIN GENTRY/USA TODAY SPORTS



DOUBLE THE FUN

Paul Wheeler
previews
a pair of
world title
fights in the
revitalised
heavyweight
division

★★★★☆ MAIN EVENT
★★★★☆ UNDERCARD



WHEN Tyson Fury forced Wladimir Klitschko to relinquish his oppressive stranglehold over the heavyweight category with an upset points victory in Germany in November, the landscape of boxing's glamour division changed immediately and dramatically. With Klitschko's tyrannical rule brought to a sudden end, there is now all to play for in a seemingly wide-open weight class.

This Saturday (January 16), two world title tussles take place inside Brooklyn's Barclays Center – the first global heavyweight championship clashes to occur in the New York City borough for over 115 years.

After Fury was controversially stripped of the IBF strap for being unable to fulfil a mandatory defence against Ukrainian **Vyacheslav Glazkov** (the heavyweight leader had already agreed to a rematch with Klitschko), the governing body declared the belt as

vacant. Subsequently, the organisation's two highest-ranked available contenders – Saint Louis-born southpaw **Charles**

Martin, 22-0-1 (20), and Glazkov, 21-0-1 (13) – will contest the crown in the chief support in New York.

The main event on this DiBella Entertainment-promoted card (televised on Sky Sports in the UK, and Showtime in the US) sees Tuscaloosa, Alabama's **Deontay**

Wilder, 35-0 (34), put his WBC title on the line against Polish portsider **Artur Szpilka**, 20-1 (15).

'I LOOK FORWARD TO WINNING OVER THE POLISH FANS AFTERWARDS'

THE FINAL STEP:
Szpilka [below] will complete
a hat-trick of voluntary defences
from Wilder

Photo: KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/USA TODAY SPORTS



I've dreamed about this many times, and now my time has come. I'll be ready to take his belt from him, and put on a show for my fans [there is a large contingent of Poles who reside in the Greenpoint neighbourhood of Brooklyn, known as 'Little Poland']".

Never short of confidence, Wilder is certain that he will not only retain his WBC crown, but also convert his opponent's followers into his own.

"I want to thank Szpilka for accepting this opportunity that I'm giving him. I wish him luck - he's going to need it," Deontay stated with conviction. "I look forward to winning over the Polish fans after I beat him. I'll be providing plenty of action and excitement."

Since dethroning Stiverne with an impressive display of boxing that went some way to erasing the question marks surrounding his stamina and punch-resistance going into the fight, Wilder has made two successful title defences against uninspiring foes.

"The Bronze Bomber" was expected to blow away both Eric Molina and Johann Duhaupas in double-quick time, but the unheralded pair put up firmer resistance than anticipated. Molina made it to the ninth round before being brutally KO'd in June, and Duhaupas lasted almost 11 full frames prior to being vanquished in September. Furthermore, although he took Stiverne's shots well, Wilder was rocked by Molina, and has also been floored in the past (during a fourth-session stoppage of inconsistent Harold Sconiers back in 2010).

While Deontay's last three bouts have all gone into the later stages, not one of his 32 contests before this went past four complete rounds. During the unbeaten 30-year-old's destructive run of quick-fire demolitions from 2008-2014, he saw off some notable names in Audley Harrison, Siarhei Liakhovich, Nicolai Firtha and Malik Scott.

Wilder may boast a remarkable 97 per cent knockout ratio, but Szpilka is no slouch himself in this department, with a respectable KO quotient of 71 per cent. The Wieliczka native's three adversaries last year (Yasmany Consuegra, Manuel Quezada and Ty Cobb) were not of the highest calibre, but they were each nonetheless dealt with inside three stanzas.

In 2013, Szpilka's noteworthy triumphs over Taras Bidenko (rtd 2) and Brian Minto (ud 10) were bookended by two wars with gutsy but limited Mike Mollo. Artur secured inside-schedule successes in both of these matches, but had to survive three knockdowns over the course of the two meetings.

The following year, Szpilka suffered his first pro loss, as then-undefeated Bryant Jennings dropped him twice en route to a 10th-round stoppage. The 26-year-old bounced back in his next outing by unanimously outscoring two-weight world titlist Tomasz Adamek over 10.

A former football hooligan who spent time in prison after being involved in a brawl between fans of two rival soccer clubs in Poland, Szpilka has carried this aggressive streak into the ring. "The Pin" marches forward with vicious ➤



EXPERT VIEW

**JASON
GAVERN**
STOPPED BY
WILDER

WILDER is a large man with a long reach, and he uses that well. Even though he's a world champion, he's still learning. Szpilka is a young, hungry guy. He's shorter than Wilder, and he can be careless, but he's a wiry southpaw who'll have all of Poland behind him. Overall, Wilder is bigger and stronger, so I think he'll stop Szpilka. However, Szpilka's style can be unpredictable, so you never know, but I'd go with Wilder to win by stoppage in the mid-to-late rounds.

TALE OF THE TAPE

| DEONTAY WILDER | ARTUR SZPILKA |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| @BronzeBomber | @szpilka_artur |
| Oct 22, 1985/30 | DOB/AGE Apr 12, 1989/26 |
| Tuscaloosa, AL | HOMETOWN Wieliczka |
| American | NATIONALITY Polish |
| 6ft 7ins | HEIGHT 6ft 3ins |
| 83ins | REACH 77ins |
| 35-0 (34) | RECORD 20-1 (15) |
| Orthodox | STANCE Southpaw |
| Nov 15, 2008/23 | DEBUT/AGE Oct 18, 2008/19 |
| 97 | KO PERCENTAGE 71 |
| 1/1 | 12-ROUNDERS COMPLETED/WON 0/0 |
| 3 | WORLD TITLE FIGHTS 0 |

Despite the fact that Szpilka's low-key status in the sport is greatly overshadowed by the widely well-known Wilder, the duo share some similarities - they are charismatic and outspoken characters who are both advised by influential powerbroker Al Haymon. And whereas Deontay's unanimous points win over Bernane Stiverne 12 months ago saw him become the first American to claim a global heavyweight belt in seven-and-a-half years, Artur is aiming to be Poland's maiden world heavy champion in history.

"It feels amazing to get the opportunity to fight Wilder for his WBC title," Szpilka beamed. "I can't wait to be the first ever Polish heavyweight to win a world title.

TALKING POINT

IN preparation for his WBC heavyweight title tilt, Szpilka has been sparring ex-Wilder opponent Eric Molina, as well as the unbeaten but largely untested John Wesley Nofire.

Photo: LUCAS NOONAN/PBC

TOUGHER THAN EXPECTED:
Wilder receives treatment
during his win over Duhaupas



► intent, unfurling hooks and uppercuts. Determined, rugged and strong, he dishes out violent combinations, and has the capacity to ruthlessly finish opponents when he has them hurt.

Currently ranked at No. 8 by the WBC, Artur enjoyed a solid amateur career. With almost half of his pro fights having taken place in the US, he has made America a home from home for himself. However, this weekend's bout will be the first time he has ever contested a 12-rounder.

With Szpilka primarily considered a brawler, trainer Ronnie Shields has been attempting to refine his charge's style since teaming up with him early last year. The pair have been working on jabbing and footwork, while they would also be wise to eradicate the Pole's dangerous propensity to occasionally drop his guard and leave himself open.

Szpilka, who begun life in the pro

ranks as a cruiserweight, concedes four inches in height to the 6ft 7in Wilder, as well as six inches in reach. Rangy and athletic, Deontay carries devastating raw power in both fists. A fast and dynamic puncher who has nimble feet for his size, the 2008 Olympic heavyweight bronze medallist pumps out a fantastic

jab, usually followed up by a ruinous right cross. Coached by Mark Breland and Jay Deas, Wilder is more than just a heavy hitter, although he can be overly wild and ragged at times, while he does not always make best use of his lengthy reach.

Against a bullish and persistent foe like Szpilka,

the champion will likely take his time by getting behind his brilliant jab in the early sessions. Artur will attempt to bulldoze his way past Wilder's long levers and burrow onto the big man's chest. This will result in some entertaining exchanges on the inside, but it will also

leave the challenger open to Deontay's punishing strikes. Szpilka is tough and game, so he may survive a knockdown or two, but the pick is for Wilder to get him out of there sometime in the final third of the contest.

If, as expected, Wilder does successfully retain his crown, a difficult-looking mandatory defence against Russia's ex-WBA 'regular' world ruler Alexander Povetkin beckons next.

After the conclusion of this weekend's show, America could have two world heavyweight champions in the shape of Wilder and Martin. Like Deontay, "Prince" Charles is a giant of a man, standing at 6ft 5ins, with an 80in reach. Also similarly to his countryman, he possesses concussive power in both hands. However, he is yet to take part in a 12-round match-up, nor has he fought any adversaries even approaching world class. In this sense, he is somewhat of an unknown quantity going into his clash with Glazkov.

"I'm feeling really blessed to get this opportunity," said Martin. "I want to become a world champion so I can go

**'I WANT TO
BECOME
CHAMPION
AND GO DOWN
IN HISTORY'**

Photo: ED MULHOLLAND/USA TODAY SPORTS

DING-A-LING:
Glazkov [right]
hammers wily
veteran Darnell
Wilson in 2014

**'I WISH
SZPILKA
LUCK – HE'S
GOING TO
NEED IT'**



four-round draw with Alvaro Morales in 2013, Martin has swept aside all before him so far. Last year, the 29-year-old won four from four (all inside-schedule) to improve his KO/stoppage streak to 12 successive fights. This included a 10th-round knockout of former South American heavy champ Raphael Zumbano Love.

Unlike Martin, Glazkov has mixed with some quality names, both as an amateur (he earned a bronze medal at the 2008 Olympics, and a silver at the 2007 World championships, both at super-heavy) and a pro. A fortunate split draw over 10 with Scott in 2013 is the sole blemish on his record, while he holds unanimous 12-round decisions over Adamek (2014) and, in contentious style, two-time IBF cruiser king Steve Cunningham (2015).

Despite being undefeated, the 31-year-old has hardly set the division alight, but he plans to do so against Martin: "I'm looking forward to getting back in the ring and finally getting my opportunity to fight for a world title."

Trained by Victor Petrochenko and residing in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, "The Czar" is methodical in his approach. His stiff jab is forceful, and he works the mid-section with efficiency. He is, however, sometimes guilty of throwing too many single shots, rather than putting combinations together.

At 6ft 3ins, Glazkov is not a particularly big heavyweight, but what he lacks in size he makes up for in sturdiness, as he has a good chin. This will be important against Martin, who unloads clubbing, unorthodox blows to both the head and body. The 2012 National Golden Gloves runner-up, who is coached by Henry Tillman in Big Bear, California, has an impressive workrate. Additionally, although he can look cumbersome at times due to his sheer bulk, he is deceptively agile.

It is not an easy fight to call, but Glazkov's far greater experience at the higher level makes him the favourite to triumph on the scorecards. Regardless of who wins the bout, the victor will be a marked man in the heavyweight category.

Also on the bill, Warsaw's 21-0 (6) middleweight **Maciej Sulecki**, 26, meets Gary, Indiana-based 31-year-old **Derrick Findley**, 22-17-1 (14) 1NC, over 10. **BN**

THE VERDICT The landscape of the heavyweight division should be much clearer after the Wilder-Szpilka and Martin-Glazkov bouts.

down in history as a top heavyweight. Glazkov is a great fighter, so I know it's going to be a tough fight, but I'm coming in to be victorious."

Apart from a disappointing majority

Photo: LUCAS NOONAN/PBC



SHOT OF THE WEEK





RARE MOMENT OF SUCCESS

HUNGARIAN Andras Csomor cracks Dereck Chisora with a right hand in Offenburg, Germany, but the Brit will recover to record a second-round stoppage victory

DRESSED TO IMPRESS:
Tete is confident he
can win another title



'I'LL OUTSMART INOUE AND BEAT HIM UP'

Zolani Tete, now promoted by Frank Warren, is a relatively small man with huge ambition, writes **Danny Flexen**



ZOLANI TETE is, at 5ft 9ins, rather tall for the super-flyweight division in which he operates. Add that the former IBF champion is a seasoned, world-class performer and a southpaw, it is perhaps surprising that so many people – this writer included – picked Paul Butler to depose the man from Mdantsane in South

Africa, when they met in Liverpool last March. Instead, Tete took control from the outset and the 22-3 operator, now aged 27, finished the fight with one of the punches of 2015, a stunning left uppercut in the eighth round. Late last year, having relinquished his IBF belt due to the paltry purse on offer for a mandatory defence, Tete signed a three-year promotional contract with Frank Warren, who also handles Butler, and is keen to return to the UK.

How did you first get into boxing?

I was eight years old, me and my older brother [Makazole] were being bullied by some guys, so we joined a boxing club. He still boxes too, we fought together in December. I can say I was a natural talent. I was a five-time South African champion and I competed internationally. I had more than 400 amateur fights, I was fighting every week. Boxing taught me a lot of discipline inside and outside the ring. Going to the gym was all I was doing, and going to school. I grew up with my mum, dad, two sisters and Makazole. I dedicated the Butler win to my mother. She was the one who was always there for me and my brother and our boxing, she would do anything so we could get what we needed.

Your preparations for Butler were reportedly fraught with difficulty, including overcrowded accommodation; is that correct?

I am based in East London [in South Africa] but when I am preparing for a big fight I go to Johannesburg to train at high altitude, and I had to bring my team because I needed sparring partners. We got there and there was a misunderstanding with the guy who had arranged accommodations, so five of us had to share a room for three days until the problem was corrected. My manager had to come from East London to sort things out. But it was just a small problem, after that it was all fine.

Did you know much about Butler pre-fight?

There are some fights of his on YouTube and I'd also seen a few tapes, every time I got back from training I watched him. In one, he was fighting a southpaw and I could see he was struggling, getting troubled, and I knew he didn't have a chance against me. Paul is short and I'm... very smart [laughs], I've got two intelligent trainers as well in Loyiso Mtya and Mhinkiza Mykeni. My dad, Zolile Tete, is assistant trainer.

What are your abiding memories of the Butler fight?

The most amazing part was the fans of Paul Butler, they were so supportive and you can tell they are boxing people. They were so sure that Paul was going to make history [by becoming the first Englishman in over 100 years to drop down a weight and win a second world title] and they could see he was doing his best, but even when I was overtaking him they didn't let him down, they were still shouting. In a way they helped my spirits, I took it as them cheering for me, I turned the tables. Paul was too short for bantamweight so it was a good move to bring him down, but it was the wrong time.

How and why did you sign with Frank Warren?

When I first got to the UK I met up with Steve Jones [who arranged this interview] – he came into the hotel and was taking us to and from the gym. He's a good guy, he was so good to us, we felt welcomed. Months after the fight, he asked about my contract with [promoter] Branco [Milenkovic] and I told him it ended in June or July. He asked if I would mind signing with Frank, and I could see he knows what he's doing and he's produced a lot of champions.

What's the grand plan?

I hope to be fighting for a world title soon at super-fly or bantam; Frank has already brought up a lot of opportunities for me. I'd love to fight in the UK once again and I should be back there by the end of March. If I have to challenge outside the UK, like Japan, where WBO champion Naoya Inoue is based, I would win and then defend in the UK. Inoue is a good fighter, he's had nine fights, eight knockouts and is a world champion, but in terms of experience, what does he have? I've been there, I know what it takes, especially if it goes beyond six rounds. I'm just gonna outsmart him and beat him up, I'm not a fighter, he must know that, I'm just gonna box him.



WORLD CLASS: Tete's [right] performance against Butler on away turf in Liverpool is of the highest level

'YOU CAN TELL BUTLER'S FANS ARE BOXING PEOPLE'

★★★★★ OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ GOOD ★★★★★ FAIR ★★ DISAPPOINTING ★ RUBBISH

Reporters' star ratings for main events and undercards are based on in-ring entertainment, competitiveness and whether overall expectation was met

SECOND TIME LUCKY

Photo: MARTIN ROSE/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES



FEIGEN-BUSTED:
De Carolis slams a left
through his rival's guard

FULL RESULTS

Giovanni De Carolis (167lbs), 24-6 (12), w rsf 11 **Vincent Feigenbutz** (167lbs), 21-2 (19); **Dereck Chisora** (235 1/2lbs), 25-5 (17), w rsf 2 **Andras Csomor** (220 1/2lbs), 14-9-1 (12); **Noel Gevor** (199 1/4lbs), 20-0 (10), w pts 10 **Valery Brudov** (198 1/2lbs), 42-7 (28); **Dennis Lewandowski** (251 1/4lbs), 7-0 (2), w pts 6 **Aziz Baran** (293 1/4lbs), 5-2 (4); **Alexander Peil** (192lbs), 2-0, w pts 4 **Ivan Brkljaca** (200lbs), 2-2 (1); **Stefan Haertel** (171lbs), 8-0, w pts 6 **Jozsef Racz** (170lbs), 5-6 (1); **Leon Bauer** (165 1/4lbs), 6-0 (5), w rsf 1 **Ondrej Marvan** (165 1/4lbs), 3-1 (2); **Artur Mann** (201 3/4lbs), 5-0 (5), w rtd 2 **Phillip Palm** (198 1/2lbs), 4-1 (3); **Patrick Wojcicki** (163lbs), 2-0 (1), w pts 4 **Serhil Ksendzov** (166 1/2lbs), 1-2; **Alexander Hofmann** (218 1/4lbs), 2-0 (1), w rtd 2 **Bekim Pagga** (228 1/4lbs), 5-9 (3).

De Carolis leaves no room for another controversy with a dominant display over Feigenbutz, writes Mark Whiteside

OFFENBURG, GERMANY

JANUARY 9

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT

★★★★★ UNDERCARD



LESS than three months had passed since the contentious, albeit unanimous, decision which saw Karlsruhe's **Vincent Feigenbutz**

claim the spurious Interim WBA super-middleweight title, despite being floored by **Giovanni De Carolis**.

This time, with the 'regular' version of the title on the line, the man from Lazio, Rome left nothing to chance. The Italian controlled the fight, and unloaded with both hands at will. He was already ahead on the scorecards (96-94 twice and 98-92) when, in the 11th round, he caught Feigenbutz with a right hook which shook him to his boots. A barrage of 15 unanswered lefts followed, and persuaded referee Gustavo Padilla to halt the fight after 28 seconds of the session. It has to be said, a couple of those punches caught Feigenbutz on the back of the head but, even so, the remonstrations from the Sauerland camp must be taken with a pinch of salt.

Feigenbutz, who at 20 had the opportunity to become Germany's youngest ever 'world' champion, was disappointing. There were moments when he was able to display his explosive punching – in the fifth round, for example, he caught De Carolis with a splendid right hook before rattling off a volley of shots, but he often looked out of his depth when attempting to land single blows while trying to stave off his opponent's advances. On this occasion, it was just a case of too much, too soon.

Finchley's **Dereck Chisora** recorded his third successive stoppage victory since joining the Sauerland outfit by stopping **Andras Csomor** in the second of their scheduled eight-rounder at heavyweight. Csomor, from Budapest, was willing but, as had been expected, outgunned. There were no knockdowns, but Chisora's shots were beginning to hurt Csomor, and once he staggered the Hungarian with a solid right hook, referee Holger Wiemann intervened. The time was 2-08.

Noel Gevor successfully defended his WBO International cruiser belt over 10 via a 99-91 (twice) and 98-92 decision over Russia's **Valery Brudov**. The Hamburg-based champion delivered an assured display of boxing and came close to stopping the veteran with a right hook that left Brudov looking badly shaken at the final bell. Mikael Hook refereed.

Greifswald's **Dennis Lewandowski** needed all six rounds to defeat the weighty **Aziz Baran** at heavyweight. The Berlin-domiciled Baran looked useful despite his girth, and made Lewandowski work hard for the victory. In the end, Lewandowski's superior fitness told. The judges posted 59-55 (twice) and 58-56. Joerg Milke was the referee.

Milke also oversaw cruiserweight **Alexander Peil** outclass Croatia's **Ivan Brkljaca**. Had it gone longer than the scheduled four, Dinslaken's Peil would surely have stopped his opponent – the right uppercut was a constant menace. The judges unanimously scored 40-36.

It's now eight on the bounce at super-middle for Berlin's **Stefan Haertel** after he dominated Hungarian journeyman **Jozsef Racz** to collect a unanimous 60-54 victory over six. Milke refereed.

By meeting **Ondrej Marvan** of the Czech Republic, Berlin's super-middle starlet **Leon Bauer** fought a fighter with a winning record for the first time. Bauer floored Marvan twice, courtesy of a right hook to the midriff and a right hook to the head, before Mr Wiemann stepped in at 2-31 of the opener (set for four).

Hannover's **Artur Mann** maintained his 100 per cent stoppage rate when **Phillip Palm** of Berlin was forced to retire in the fifth of their six-rounder at cruiser. A right hook to Palm's left ear did the damage. Palm notified referee Wiemann that he was in discomfort and, after consulting with the ring doctor, his corner surrendered at 2-52.

Former amateur star **Patrick Wojcicki**, from Wolfsburg, fought four rounds with Cologne's **Serhil Ksendzov** at super-middle with an assured display of nimble footwork and two-handed boxing. He thoroughly deserved the 40-36 victory on all three scorecards. Gerhard Sigl refereed.

Alexander Hofmann of Rottweil recorded his first stoppage victory in the evening's opening bout when the German-based Kosovan **Bekim Pagga**, having decided that two rounds of punishment was more than sufficient, retired on his stool prior to the third of their heavy four. Weimann refereed.

THE VERDICT Perhaps too much is being asked of Feigenbutz given his tender years. He can bounce back, but this was De Carolis' night.



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TAKE *the* MONEY *and* RUN

George Gigney meets a man
who fights for one reason only

A

PRIZEFIGHTER is someone who fights for money. The term does not allude to legacy or glory, not even a love for boxing itself – it is simply a profession. Jamie McDonnell is a prizefighter.

The 29-year-old has been boxing professionally for over a decade but in 2015 announced himself as one of Britain's leading pugilists. He twice travelled to America to beat Japan's highly touted Tomoki Kameda, both times successfully defending his WBA 'world' bantamweight crown, producing two of the most notable British away days in recent history.

Despite those feats, and numerous others before them including British, Commonwealth, European and IBF titles, the plaudits have not streamed in as one would think they might.

Perhaps it was a case of bad timing – 2015 was a standout year for British boxing with Tyson Fury dethroning Wladimir Klitschko, James DeGale becoming the first British Olympic champion to win a professional world title, and several others claiming global honours.

Regardless, McDonnell only has one concern with regards to recognition from others – the health of his bank account.

"I was already world champion [at the start of the year], I'd won British, Commonwealth and European titles, and I didn't really get any credit," he told *Boxing News*.

"I started getting recognition after the Kameda fights, my name started to get chucked into the mix, so I'm getting there but obviously I'm in one of the

smaller weights so I'm not going to get talked about as much.

"I've always said I'm not too fussed [about the recognition] but I want the big paydays, and the more you get noticed and recognised, the more you get paid. That's why I do it, it's all about the money and making a better life for my family. If I want a bigger payday, I've got to become a bigger name, a household name.

"I should be getting more credit, but I just have to keep doing what I'm doing, proving everyone wrong, getting the wins over in America and getting the big fights.

"People asked why I took the rematch with Kameda in America, but when they offer you a s*** load of money to fight a kid I already beat, why would I not take that? I thought I'd stop him the second time and it turned out to be an easier fight really."

Going into his first fight with Kameda in May of last year, McDonnell was a heavy underdog. He climbed off the deck in the third to earn a unanimous decision in a thriller, and went on to put on an even better display in the rematch four months later, dropping Kameda in the 12th to claim another UD victory.

The first time round, Jamie was seriously up against it. Not only was Kameda supposedly the better fighter on paper (he was unbeaten in 31 fights and had won the WBO crown, though vacated it before facing McDonnell), the Doncaster native's corner was in turmoil before the contest.

When he arrived with his team at the airport to travel to Texas, McDonnell's trainer, Dave Hulley, announced he would not be able to board the plane through fear of flying. Jamie was forced to contact ➤

★ JAMIE ★
McDONNELL

BIG FEATURE

BOXING
NEWS



HAND TO MOUTH:
McDonnell is fighting
for money not glory
Photo: ACTION IMAGES/
CRAIG BROUGH



FOLLOW THE LEADER:
McDonnell [right]
has flourished under
trainer Coldwell

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/
CRAIG BROUGH

“
**JUST TO GET IN THE RING TAKES SOME KNACKERS... SOME CAN
DO IT, SOME CAN'T. I LOVE THE PRESSURE**
”

Photos: ESTHER LIN/PBC & LUCAS NOONAN/PBC



TEXAS ADVENTURES:
McDonnell recovers
from a knockdown
to defeat Kameda
[above], and drops him
to secure victory in
their rematch [right]



► his manager, Dave Coldwell, to fly out instead and act as head coach. To his credit, Coldwell was superb on the night and remains McDonnell's trainer to this day.

As a Matchroom fighter, McDonnell also has the huge benefit of his fights being shown on Sky Sports in the UK – though this was not to be the case in May. Rather than broadcast McDonnell's heroics, Sky elected to show Anthony Joshua blitzing Kevin Johnson inside two rounds.

"It was a little bit frustrating. It's almost like they didn't believe in me, it knocks you a bit," McDonnell said.

"Obviously if they thought more of you, they'd show you. Hopefully I've got a bit more respect now and they'll back me more now but I've felt like that all my career, that I need to prove myself.

"You just have to keep going though, I believe I'm the best bantamweight out there, none of the other fighters scare me or anything. As long as I'm getting what I feel is enough money, I'll go and fight anyone."

That includes travelling to Japan to face WBC champion Shinsuke Yamanaka – widely regarded as the best at 118lbs – for which an offer was put on the table for McDonnell, though the reward was allegedly nowhere near worth the risk.

While money is, of course, a key motivator for boxers, most will also cite their love for the sport, or perhaps their desire to create history, as other driving factors in their careers. For McDonnell however it's merely just a job, albeit a very well paying one.

"I'm not a fan, I still don't even know all the weights. I know some of them up to welterweight, but I don't know what order they go in. When I talk to the lads in the gym they laugh at me, but I'm just not that bothered about it," he opined.

"We were talking about Martin Murray the other day and I asked, 'Has he fought 'GGG' [Gennady Golovkin]?' And they told me he's fought them all, [Sergio] Martinez, [Felix] Sturm, and I'm like, 'I didn't know any of that!'

"Gavin [Jamie's twin] follows it religiously though, so when I'm going to fight someone he'll say, 'He's handy this kid bruv, have you seen him?' And I'll say, 'I haven't watched him yet', and he'll tell me, 'He can bang a bit, you better have a look!' He'll look up their records as well and I'll watch them for two minutes, see what they look like, that'll do me.

"I've heard of all the big names, but I've never watched them. I've never seen [Muhammad] Ali or [Mike] Tyson, it doesn't interest me. It should really though because it's my job isn't it?"

It's a dangerous and notoriously difficult career to make your way in – something McDonnell knows first-hand.

The aforementioned problems with the first Kameda fight were bad enough, but in 2013 he was inexplicably stripped of the IBF title he had won against the vastly talented Julio Ceja.

Naturally, there are times when he questions his choices, particularly when he is boiling his 5ft 10in frame down to the bantamweight limit, but his mercenary-like outlook keeps him on track.

"Even now, at this level, it's hard keeping on a strict diet, training two or three times a day when you're tired, weak and fed up," he said.

"I come home some days and think, 'I can't be arsed with this, I'll go back to plastering [a job he used to hold]', but then you fight and you get your money, so there's no comparison.

"Just to get in the ring takes some knackers, especially on the telly in front of everyone. Some can cope with it, some can't. I love the pressure."

Like most British fighters, McDonnell served a stint in the unpaid ranks but admits he stopped at the age of 17 – until a year or so later when a friend told him he could earn £500 per fight if he turned over.

McDonnell duly did so and soon found himself fighting for the Lonsdale Belt against Chris Edwards.

"I remember fighting for the British title and earning £11,000 and jumping up from £2,000,

it's a lot of money. I didn't even know what the British title was," he admitted.

"He beat me, but I'd done 12 rounds and I remember feeling right proud for doing 12 rounds, I wasn't bothered about the belt.

"When I fought for it the second time against Ian Napa and won, that was one of my proudest moments because it was my first major title [the vacant Commonwealth strap was also on the line]. Some people like to win it outright but I was offered a chance at other belts for more money, so I vacated and moved on."

Now, Jamie is earning hundreds of thousands to take on some of the best fighters in his weight class, but now he has a taste for it, he does not want to settle.

"Emmanuel Rodriguez is being lined up next, he's unbeaten and was a really good amateur. Some people think he'll beat me but I think I'll absolutely smash him out, I don't think he's on my level.

"I think that will kick start the year. [Lee] Haskins has got the IBF title, maybe that's a domestic fight that could happen in the summer.

"It all depends on what kind of money's available, I might move up [to super-bantamweight] and try and catch the likes of [Scott] Quigg, [Carl] Frampton and [Nonito] Donaire. You have to time it right though. It's not bad money at bantam but I could make a name for myself at super-bantam and make a lot



BROTHERS IN ARMS

On twin sibling Gavin

IT makes it a little bit easier, going to the gym with your brother. We travel there every morning and back every night. It is a lonely sport, but I've got my brother so it's not too bad really.

We were as good as each other as amateurs but because I won the first title I was always one step ahead. He's catching up with me in the pro game, and he'll be a world champion for sure and he's only been a pro for five years. Because he's undefeated and I've been beat, he takes the p*** a bit but then I tell him I'm world champion in response. It's good banter with him.

of money."

So if there are no historical milestones McDonnell wants to meet in boxing, what are his long-term goals? The answer, by now, is obvious. However, he does not pursue cash just to splash it on lavish items, he merely wants to provide the best life possible for his young family, to whom he is fiercely dedicated.

"I always say, 'Just get me the most money you can, I don't care who it's against.' You're getting punched in the face, you're not going to do it for nothing. I've got to try and get as much as I can for my family," he said.

"I'm going to get out on top, call it a day having earned enough money. Don't get me wrong, it's nice to have all the belts in your cupboard, but at the end of the day they don't pay the bills.

"Two or three more big fights, earn a couple of million say, set myself up and I'll get out of the game. I've paid my house off now and I'm only 29, that's what I always wanted to do when I started out.

"If I can come out of the game with a bit of something and my health, I'll be happy. But if my career ended now, I'd be happy." **BN**

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/ANDREW COULDRIDGE



PROUD MOMENT: McDonnell celebrates after edging Napa via split decision



THE TEACHER:
McCauley provides
valuable experience
for young prospects



'I CAN STILL BREATHE THROUGH MY NOSE, JUST ABOUT...'

Britain's busiest boxer, Kevin McCauley, tells Matt Christie about the joy and despair of fighting every week



IKE Jamie McDonnell, [pages 30-33], Kevin McCauley is fighting purely for money. But to make his living, unlike the title-plated McDonnell, 36-year-old McCauley must enter the prize ring as often as the average fella will visit his local pub. The Brighton-

raised Stourbridge resident clocked up 29 fights last year, making him Britain's most prolific fighter, drawing three of them, and losing the rest. The journeyman, as his incredible breed are known, will dispute those statistics, believing the politics of boxing, and bad decisions, are the real reason behind his winless year. Here, the crafty professional – indeed far better than his 11-110-8 record suggests – talks us through the complicated life of boxing out of the wrong corner.

You had 29 fights last year. What on earth was that like?

It's my job at the minute, and while I want to do other things in the future, it's what I do at the moment. I want to fight as many times as possible, and as often as I can.

Do you enjoy it?

I love it, yeah, I love it. There's nothing better.

Where did it all begin for you?

The family. Both grandads [Paddy McCauley and Alex Flatman] boxed to a good level. My dad, Thomas McCauley, had 30 or 40 fights as an amateur in Coventry. He done good. I decided to start a bit later on.

You turned professional in 2008, and you've since had 129 fights. Does it offend you to be called a 'journeyman'?

Not at all. I mean, I'd like to tell you the story about how



PROUD: McCauley fights to provide for his family, but loves his job

'I HAVE TO MAKE THE KIDS LOOK GOOD. THEY'VE GOT NO IDEA'

it really is when it's all done and dusted and I've got a few hundred fights under my belt. I've won 11 fights, and that's not really a true figure [of what I've deserved]. But we know what

goes on in the boxing world, and for half of my fights there could have been a different result. But when you do get to have a go, and you don't get the nod because you're up against a big ticket-seller, or you've had the same referee as the week before, it's hard. But you have to keep going and earning money.

Journeymen are inevitably the 'away' fighter, the one who is not expected or supposed to win. How many times have you been the 'home' fighter in your 129-fight career?

I don't know, about four? [Laughs]. I was brought up in Brighton, so to get people to travel up to the Midlands [where he lives], and get home fights in Wolverhampton, is quite difficult. I'd just had kids and I made the decision I had to go on the road and get what I can from the sport. I enjoy it, and I know I'm never going to be world champion.

It's common for the 'away' fighter to feel aggrieved, often rightly, by decisions. That sense of injustice must be difficult to deal with so regularly. How hard is it for your pride to deal with?

It's a kick in the arse if I'm honest. Like I say, I have to fight the young up-and-coming kids, get them through, and make them look good. They've got no idea you're doing that. But when it comes to those fights when you

can have a go – and you might have fought the week before, and the week before that – but you have a go and you win, but you don't get the nod, it's gutting. You wonder where that kid ➤



LONE WOLF:
The life of the journeyman can be a difficult one



TOUGH JOB:
McCauley digs at Adam Little [above], and is embraced by Freddie Turner [below]



‘I’LL GET A WIN OR EVEN A DRAW, AND THEN MY NEXT FIGHT CHANGES’

► is going to go because he's going to fight better fighters than me! It's really disheartening.

Even now?

Totally, totally. The last fight I had [a four-round draw with debutant Mark Fairweather], up in Scotland, I dropped him, I had him in trouble, and all I got was a draw. I sometimes think it's the referees who should be getting the eye tests and the medicals, not the boxers [laughs]. But to be fair, it's their opinion, and they call it as they see it.

How do you know what your role in the fight is expected to be? How do you know when you can go for broke and try and win, and how do you know when it's just expected that you 'move around' with someone?

I usually know straight away. If I'm psyched up to win, I'll clown and play up a bit. If I go all out to win in those situations, I'll struggle to get a fight the next week.

At the start, after three fights, you were 2-1. What were your ambitions as a boxer at that point?

I wanted to win a title, and I did that. I beat Dave Ryan for the Midlands Area [welterweight] title in Derby [w pts 10, February 2010]. I beat Craig Windsor up in Scotland [w pts 10, November 2011], but then I beat a lot of fighters where I didn't get the nod and it affects your ambition. I started too late. I was 29 when I turned over. I never dreamed that I'd have this many fights and I do enjoy it. I love it. And I get a lot of respect for what I do, and a lot of people know what I do, even some of the kids [young fighters] know that I could give a little bit more when I need to. But it also depends what is going on in my life at the time. It's hard to fight every Saturday and then get back in the gym on the Monday. But you just crack on with it.

Some journeymen have mentioned in the past that they reach a point in their career, try and take it seriously, and they get a win or two and their phone stops ringing. Is that something you can relate to?

Definitely. I'll get a win or even a draw, and then the fight I was supposed to be having the week after changes. It doesn't happen with the small hall fights, but with some of the bigger promoters, the matchmaker will pull them out [of a scheduled fight with me]. They don't want to take the risk. You can understand that. I thought I bashed up Georgie Kean on the undercard of the [Billy Joe] Saunders-[Chris] Eubank fight at the ExCel [November 2014]. I knocked him down and I only gave him a round, a round-and-a-half maybe, but he gets the win [on points over four]. You have to respect the referee's decision, you have to get on with it.

What is it like to fight on bills of that magnitude [Saunders-Eubank]?

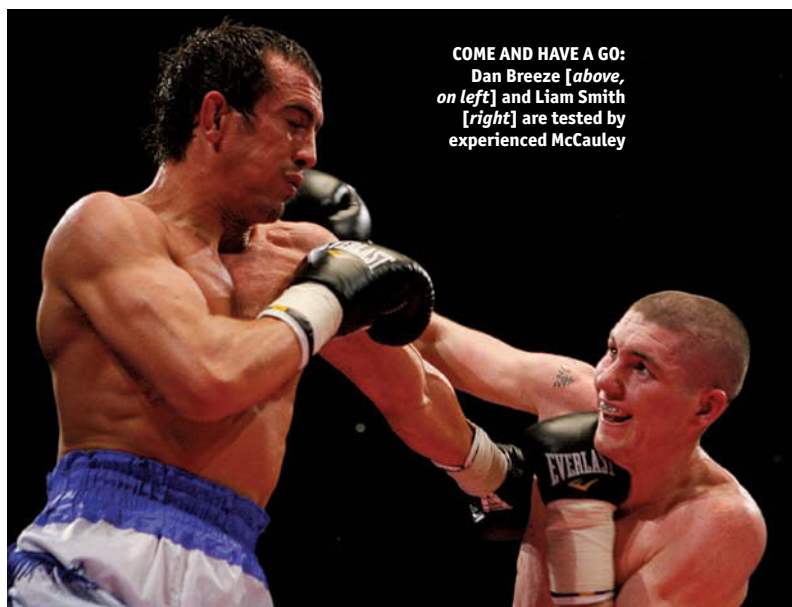
It's amazing. It's a good buzz and you don't really expect to be there. I've already done what I wanted to do in the sport, and I'm just enjoying it now. I would like to win another title. I'd love to fight for another Area title, but I need the referees to give me a few wins when I deserve it. It might help me [laughs]. We'll see. I reckon I'd give anyone a good run for their money when I'm on form, when I'm up for it, anyone would have to be on their guard.

Do you spend time with the fighters at the top of the bill? Do they respect what you do?

Yes, definitely. I fought Liam Smith [l pts 4] on the [Amir] Khan-[Marco Antonio] Barrera bill [March 2009], and it was gobsmacking, it was overwhelming. It was the first time I'd



THE WRONG MAN: McCauley comes up short against Georgie Kean [right], Robbie Davies Jnr [below, on right] and Ashley Peyton [inset, on left]



COME AND HAVE A GO: Dan Breeze [above, on left] and Liam Smith [right] are tested by experienced McCauley

fought on a bill like that. Liam was only in his third fight and I gave him a nightmare, he got caught with some shots and he was a bit gutted, and he didn't want to do the interview [afterwards], so his brother Paul, who was also on the bill, did the interview. Both were great guys. When I fought John Thain [1 pts 4] in 2010 in Liverpool, John Conteh came up to me afterwards. I remember my dad talking about him! When you have a guy of that calibre come up to you, it means the world, it makes it all worthwhile. They're all nice guys. There ain't many I haven't clicked with.

You clearly enjoy fighting every week.

But would you sacrifice all that to be a prospect, with financial backing and all the opportunities that brings?

I think so. I still think about this now. If someone made it easy for me, if they paid me, if I was allowed to get on with it, for it to be my job where I didn't have to fight every week so I could spend time training, I could shock a lot of people. I can still breathe through my nose, just about, I don't get hit that much. But that's not going to happen. I'm married, I've got two kids – I've got to work.

What do your family make of your job as a boxer?



It's hard. Very often I'm fighting at weekends and we may have had something planned for the weekend. But they accept it, because without boxing we'd be stuffed. The reason why I do this, the driving force behind what I do, is my wife Dawn and my children, Lily and Harry. I am so grateful for their support.

Are there any concerns, from you or your family, that boxing will affect your health in the future?

No. I don't think so. I'm still compos mentis, I can still make a cup of tea, I can still string a sentence together [laughs]. I suppose if I started dribbling while I was watching the television they might tell me to retire. I'm alright, I'm applying to get back to university.

What are you hoping to do?

Nursing. I want to be a paramedic. I've still got a brain – in the past I've worked on building sites and I don't want to do that when I retire from boxing.

If you could change one thing about the sport, what would it be?

There's too much ducking and diving in boxing, where fighters avoid each other – usually because of money and promotional reasons. But they should be made to fight each other. **BN**

'IF I STARTED DRIBBLING WHILE WATCHING THE TV MY FAMILY MIGHT TELL ME TO RETIRE'

JANUARY

FRIDAY 15

Centro de Convenciones El Cifco, San Salvador, El Salvador

Nehomar Cermenio v Josue Bendana.

SATURDAY 16

02 Arena, Greenwich (Dave)

David Haye v Mark de Mori;
John O'Donnell v Shayne Singleton;
Tony Dodson v Richard Horton;
Kay Prospere v Lee Connelly;
Wadi Camacho v Jindrich Velecky;
Josh Kennedy v s/o; Jose Lopes v
Darren Snow. (Promoter:
Hayemaker Promotions).

Barclays Center, Brooklyn, New York (Sky Sports & Showtime)

Deontay Wilder (holder) v Artur Szpilka
(WBC heavyweight title); Vyacheslav
Glazkov v Charles Martin (vacant IBF
heavyweight title); Maciej Sulecki v
Derrick Findley; Adam Kownacki v
Danny Kelly; Mike Lee v Joe Gardner.
(Promoter: DiBella Entertainment).

The Bomb Factory, Dallas, Texas (UniMas)

Erick De Leon v Fidel Navarrete;
Matt Korobov v Josue Ovando;
Johnny Determan v Oscar Mojica.
(Promoter: Top Rank).

Korakuen Hall, Tokyo, Japan

Masanobu Nakazawa (holder) v Hiroki
Okada (Japanese super-lightweight title).
(Promoter: Kadoebi Jewel Promotions).

Sporthal Sint Pieter, Sint Truiden, Belgium

Ismail Abdoul v Nabil Lahouari
(vacant Belgian light-heavyweight title).

TUESDAY 19

Club Nokia, Los Angeles (FOX Sports 1)

Jamal James v Javier Molina;
David Benavidez v Kevin Cobbs;
Con Sheehan v Jonathan Rice.
(Promoter: TGB Promotions).

WEDNESDAY 20

Korakuen Hall, Tokyo, Japan

Yasuhiro Okawa v Nobuyuki Shindo
(vacant Japanese welterweight title).
(Promoter: Reason Promotions).

THURSDAY 21

Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow

Grant Quigley v Mark Till; Andrew Mackay
v Lee Redpath; Ukashir Farooq v s/o.
(Promoter: St Andrew's Sporting Club).

FRIDAY 22

York Hall, Bethnal Green (BoxNation)

Ryan Walsh (holder) v Darren Traynor
(British featherweight title); Ahmet
Patterson v Ryan Aston (vacant IBF
International super-welterweight title);
Lewis Pettitt v Krzysztof Rogowski; Ediz
Hussein v s/o; Sammy McNess v s/o; Billy
Long v Kieron Grey; Archie Sharpe v Youssef
Al Hamidi; Ben Smith v s/o; DP Carr v s/o.
(Promoter: Queensberry Promotions).

SATURDAY 23

Staples Center, Los Angeles, California (BoxNation & FOX)

Danny Garcia v Robert Guerrero;
Sammy Vasquez v Aaron Martinez;
Dominic Breazeale v Amir Mansour.
(Promoter: TGB Promotions).

Butte Civic Center, Montana

Anthony Bonsante v Yori Boy Campas.
(Promoter: Dee Lee).

Faleata Sports Complex, Apia, Samoa

Joseph Parker v Jason Bergman.
(Promoter: Duco Events Ltd).

THURSDAY 28

Crowne Plaza, Glasgow

Stephen Simmons v s/o; Stephen Tiffney
v s/o; Marc Kerr v s/o; Thomas Dickson v
s/o. (Promoter: MGM Scotland).

Park Lane Hilton, Mayfair

Sheldon Purdy v s/o; Sam Cantwell
v s/o; Richard Connolly v Ali Wyatt.
(Promoter: Hellraiser Promotions).

FRIDAY 29

Belasco Theater, Los Angeles, California (Estrella TV)

Julian Ramirez v Christopher Martin
(vacant WBC Youth Silver featherweight
title); Abraham Lopez v Carlos Valcarcel.
(Promoter: Golden Boy Promotions).

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Roberto Bolonti v Walter Cabral.
(Promoter: Boxeo de la Costa).

SATURDAY 30

Copper Box Arena, Stratford (Sky Sports)

George Groves v Andrea Di Luisa;
John Ryder v Sergey Khomitsky (vacant
WBA International middleweight title);
John Wayne Hibbert (holder) v
Tommy Martin (Commonwealth super-
lightweight title); Kris Ageyi-Dua
(holder) v Ben Hall (Southern Area super-
welterweight title); Leon McKenzie v
Kelvin Young; Ohara Davies v s/o;
Ted Cheeseman v Ian Henry; Jake Ball
v Richard Horton; Reece Bellotti v s/o;
Lucien Reid v s/o; Paul Smith v s/o;
Martin J Ward v s/o; Craig Richards v
s/o. (Promoters: Matchroom Boxing &
Sauerland Event).

Guildhall, Plymouth

Chris Adaway v Danny Parsons; Courtney
Richards v Josh Burke; Christian Hoskin
Gomez v Mark Till; Ben Zacharkiw v s/o;
Jack Bellingham v s/o; Ross Roberts v
Jason Nesbitt; Louis Aitken v
Matt Seawright; Darren Townley v
Duane Green. (Promoter: Black Country
Boxing Promotion).

Bell Centre, Montreal, Canada (BoxNation & HBO)

Sergey Kovalev (holder) v Jean Pascal
(IBF, WBA Super & WBO light-heavyweight
titles); Dmitry Mikhaylenko v Ray
Robinson; Renan St Juste v Francis
Lafreniere (vacant IBF International
middleweight title); Virgilijus Stapulionis
v Laszlo Fazekas; Joel Diaz Jr v Abraham
Gomez. (Promoter: Main Events &
Interbox).

Shanghai Oriental Sports Center, China

Zou Shiming v Natan Santana Coutinho;
Ik Yang v Chalernpol Singwancha;
Ryota Murata v Juan Camilo Novoa.
(Promoter: Top Rank & SECA Ltd).

Marriott Convention Center, Burbank, California (UniMas)

Jose Felix Jnr v Ricky Sismundo;
Egor Mekhontsev v Felipe Romero;
Danny Valdivia v Kenneth Council;
Arnold Barboza Jnr v Robbie Cannon.
(Promoter: Top Rank & Bash Boxing &
PR Sports Promotions Inc).

FEBRUARY

WEDNESDAY 3

Prince Regent Hotel, Chigwell

Boy Jones Jnr v s/o; Lee Markham v s/o.
(Promoter: Longshot Sports &
Double A Promotions).

FRIDAY 5

Roadstone Club, Dublin, Ireland

Gerard Whitehouse v s/o; Sean Turner v
s/o; Steve Collins Jr v s/o; Ciaran Mullen v
s/o; Ian Tims v s/o; James Metcalf v s/o;
Tshifhiwa Munyai v s/o; Luke Keller v s/o.
(Promoter: MGM Promotions).

Fantasy Springs Casino, Indio, California (Estrella TV)

Randy Caballero v Ruben Garcia;
Frankie Gomez v Silverio Ortiz.
(Promoter: Golden Boy Promotions).

Balai Sarbini Convention Hall, Jakarta, Indonesia

Daud Yordan v Yoshitaka Kato.
(Promoter: Mahkota Promotions).

SATURDAY 6

Magna Centre, Rotherham

Muheeb Fazeldin v Klaas Mboyane
(vacant Commonwealth bantamweight
title); Liam Cameron v s/o; Sam Sheedy
v Danny Butler; Waleed Din v s/o; Ramzy
Nassa v s/o; Leon Field v s/o; Razaq Najib
v s/o; Loua Nassa v Jordan Turner;
Kyle Yousaf v s/o; Tom Bell v s/o;
Kevin Skill v s/o; Osman Aslam v s/o.
(Promoter: Dennis Hobson Promotions).

Europa Hotel, Belfast

James Fryers v Maxi Hughes;
James Tennyson v Antonio Horvatic; Paul
Hyland Jnr v s/o; Joe Fitzpatrick v s/o;
Feargal McCrory v s/o; Tyrone McCullagh v
s/o. (Promoter: Mark H Dunlop).

Newport Centre

Craig Kennedy v Tony Conquest;
Barrie Jones (holder) v Bradley Pryce
(Welsh Area super-welterweight title);
Andrew Selby v s/o; Tony Dixon v Dean
Byrne; Sonny Lee v s/o; Jamie Arthur v
s/o; Morgan Jones v s/o; Nathan Thorley v
s/o; Jermaine Asare v s/o; Ashley Brace v
s/o. (Promoter: Sanigar Events).

National Stadium, Dublin, Ireland (BoxNation)

Joe Selkirk v Gary Corcoran (vacant WBO
Inter-Continental super-welterweight
title); Jamie Conlan (holder) v s/o (WBO
Inter-Continental super-flyweight title);
Peter McDonagh v s/o; Craig O'Brien v
s/o; Sean Creagh v s/o; Philip Sutcliffe
Jnr v s/o; Paul Hyland v s/o; Stephen
Ormond v s/o; Declan Geraghty v s/o; Gary
Sweeney v s/o; Jamie Kavanagh v s/o;
Romeo Romaeo v s/o. (Promoter: MGM
Promotions & Queensberry Promotions).

Ceres Arena, Aarhus, Denmark

Micki Nielsen (holder) v Giacobbe
Fragomeni (WBC International
cruiserweight title); Dennis Ceylan v s/o.
(Promoter: SPAG).

Ingelmuinster, Belgium

Ayoub Nefzi v Arnaud Dimidschtein;
Innocent Anyanwu v Andrea Carbonello.

FRIDAY 12

Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand

Pungluang Sor Singyu (holder) v
Jetro Pabustan (WBO bantamweight
title). (Promoter: Onesongchai Boxing
Promotion).

BOXING ON THE BOX

THURSDAY 14

7.00pm BoxNation
Bunce's Boxing Hour
9.00pm BoxNation
Cassius and Helder

FRIDAY 15

8.00pm Dave
Haye v de Mori:
The Countdown

SATURDAY 16

9.00pm Dave
LIVE David Haye v
Mark de Mori

SUNDAY 17

3.00am Sky Sports 1
LIVE Deontay Wilder v
Artur Szpilka

WEDNESDAY 20

1.00am Channel 4
KOTV Boxing Weekly

**HEAVYWEIGHT**

over 200lbs/14st 4lbs

- 1 **TYSON FURY** 25-0 (ENG)
- 2 **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** 64-4 (UKR)
- 3 **ALEXANDER POVETKIN** 30-1 (RUS)
- 4 **DEONTAY WILDER** 35-0 (USA)
- 5 **KUBRAT PULEV** 22-1 (BGR)
- 6 **VYACHESLAV GLAZKOV** 21-0-1 (UKR)
- 7 **LUIS ORTIZ** 24-0 (CUB)
- 8 **BERMANE STIVERNE** 25-2-1 (CAN)
- 9 **CARLOS TAKAM** 33-2-1 (CMR)
- 10 **MALIK SCOTT** 38-2-1 (USA)

CRUISERWEIGHT

200lbs/14st 4lbs

- 1 **KRZYSZTOF GLOWACKI** 25-0 (POL)
- 2 **MARCO HUCK** 38-3-1 (GER)
- 3 **GRIGORY DROZD** 40-1 (RUS)
- 4 **DENIS LEBEDEV** 28-2 (RUS)
- 5 **VICTOR EMILIO RAMIREZ** 22-2-1 (ARG)
- 6 **OLA AFOLABI** 22-4-4 (ENG)
- 7 **FIRAT ARSLAN** 36-8-2 (GER)
- 8 **ILUNGA MAKABU** 19-1 (COD)
- 9 **TONY BELLEW** 26-2-1 (ENG)
- 10 **OVILL MCKENZIE** 25-12-1 (ENG)

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT

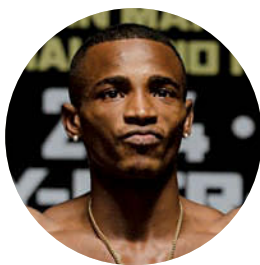
175lbs/12st 7lbs

- 1 **SERGEY KOVALEV** 28-0-1 (RUS)
- 2 **ADONIS STEVENSON** 27-1 (CAN)
- 3 **JEAN PASCAL** 30-3-1 (CAN)
- 4 **JUERGEN BRAEHMER** 47-2 (GER)
- 5 **ANDRZEJ FONFARA** 28-3 (POL)
- 6 **ARTUR BETERBIEV** 9-0 (RUS)
- 7 **ELEIDER ALVAREZ** 19-0 (COL)
- 8 **ANDRE WARD** 28-0 (USA)
- 9 **ISAAC CHILEMBA** 24-3-2 (MAW)
- 10 **VYACHESLAV SHABRANSKY** 14-0 (UKR)

SUPER-MIDDLEWEIGHT

168lbs/12st

- 1 **JAMES DeGALE** 22-1 (ENG)
- 2 **ARTHUR ABRAHAM** 44-4 (GER)
- 3 **BADOU JACK** 20-1-1 (SWE)
- 4 **LUCIAN BUTE** 32-3 (CAN) *[above]*
- 5 **GEORGE GROVES** 21-3 (ENG)
- 6 **ANTHONY DIRRELL** 28-1-1 (USA)
- 7 **FEDOR CHUDINOV** 14-0 (RUS)
- 8 **ANDRE DIRRELL** 24-2 (USA)
- 9 **FELIX STURM** 39-5-3 (GER)
- 10 **GILBERTO RAMIREZ** 33-0 (MEX)

**MIDDLEWEIGHT**

160lbs/11st 6lbs

- 1 **SAUL ALVAREZ** 46-1-1 (MEX)
- 2 **MIGUEL COTTO** 40-5 (PRI)
- 3 **GENNADY GOLOVKIN** 34-0 (KAZ)
- 4 **DANIEL JACOBS** 31-1 (USA)
- 5 **BILLY JOE SAUNDERS** 23-0 (ENG)
- 6 **PETER QUILLIN** 32-1-1 (USA)
- 7 **ANDY LEE** 34-3-1 (IRL)
- 8 **DAVID LEMIEUX** 34-3 (CAN)
- 9 **DANIEL GEALE** 31-4 (AUS)
- 10 **HASSAN N'DAM N'JIKAM** 31-2 (FRA)

SUPER-WELTERWEIGHT

154lbs/11st

- 1 **ERISLANDY LARA** 22-2-2 (CUB) *[above]*
- 2 **AUSTIN TROUT** 30-2 (USA)
- 3 **JERMALL CHARLO** 23-0 (USA)
- 4 **JERMELL CHARLO** 27-0 (USA)
- 5 **DEMETRIUS ANDRADE** 22-0 (USA)
- 6 **VANES MARTIROSYAN** 36-2-1 (USA)
- 7 **CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE** 34-6 (USA)
- 8 **CARLOS MOLINA** 23-6-2 (USA)
- 9 **ISHE SMITH** 28-8 (USA)
- 10 **LIAM SMITH** 22-0-1 (ENG)

WELTERWEIGHT

147lbs/10st 7lbs

- 1 **MANNY PACQUIAO** 57-6-2 (PHL)
- 2 **TIMOTHY BRADLEY** 33-1-1 (USA)
- 3 **KELL BROOK** 35-0 (ENG)
- 4 **AMIR KHAN** 31-3 (ENG)
- 5 **SHAWN PORTER** 26-1-1 (USA)
- 6 **KEITH THURMAN** 26-0 (USA)
- 7 **ROBERT GUERRERO** 33-3-1 (USA)
- 8 **DANNY GARCIA** 31-0 (USA)
- 9 **LAMONT PETERSON** 34-3-1 (USA)
- 10 **JESSIE VARGAS** 26-1 (USA)

SUPER-LIGHTWEIGHT

140lbs/10st

- 1 **VIKTOR POSTOL** 28-0 (UKR)
- 2 **LUCAS MATTHYSSE** 37-4 (ARG)
- 3 **TERENCE CRAWFORD** 27-0 (USA)
- 4 **ADRIEN BRONER** 31-2 (USA)
- 5 **JOSE BENAVIDEZ** 24-0 (USA)
- 6 **KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV** 19-2 (RUS)
- 7 **MAURICIO HERRERA** 22-5 (USA)
- 8 **EDUARD TROYANOVSKY** 23-0 (RUS)
- 9 **CESAR RENE CUENCA** 48-1 (ARG)
- 10 **ANTONIO OROZCO** 23-0 (MEX)

**LIGHTWEIGHT**

135lbs/9st 9lbs

- 1 **JORGE LINARES** 40-3 (VEN)
- 2 **TERRY FLANAGAN** 29-0 (ENG)
- 3 **ISMAEL BARROSO** 19-0-2 (VEN)
- 4 **DEJAN ZLATICANIN** 21-0 (MNE)
- 5 **YURIORKIS GAMBOA** 25-1 (CUB)
- 6 **ANTHONY CROLLA** 30-4-3 (ENG)
- 7 **ARGENIS MENDEZ** 23-3-1 (DOM)
- 8 **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ** 35-5 (MEX)
- 9 **RANCES BARTHELEMY** 24-0 (CUB)
- 10 **DENIS SHAFIKOV** 36-2-1 (RUS)

SUPER-FEATHERWEIGHT

130lbs/9st 4lbs

- 1 **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA** 24-0-1 (JPN)
- 2 **FRANCISCO VARGAS** 23-0-1 (MEX) *[above]*
- 3 **TAKASHI MIURA** 29-3-2 (JPN)
- 4 **JAVIER FORTUNA** 29-0-1 (DOM)
- 5 **BRYAN VASQUEZ** 34-2 (CRI)
- 6 **SERGIO THOMPSON** 30-4 (MEX)
- 7 **ROMAN MARTINEZ** 29-2-3 (PRI)
- 8 **ORLANDO SALIDO** 42-13-3 (MEX)
- 9 **EDEN SONSONA** 34-6-2 (PHL)
- 10 **JOSE PEDRAZA** 20-0 (PRI)

FEATHERWEIGHT

126lbs/9st

- 1 **VASYL LOMACHENKO** 5-1 (UKR)
- 2 **GARY RUSSELL JNR** 26-1 (USA)
- 3 **LEO SANTA CRUZ** 31-0-1 (MEX)
- 4 **SIMPIWE VETYEKA** 28-3 (RSA)
- 5 **ABNER MARES** 29-2-1 (MEX)
- 6 **LEE SELBY** 22-1 (WAL)
- 7 **JESUS CUELLAR** 28-1 (ARG)
- 8 **EVGENY GRADOVICH** 21-1-1 (RUS)
- 9 **RONNY RIOS** 25-1 (USA)
- 10 **JAYSON VELEZ** 23-1-1 (PRI)

SUPER-BANTAMWEIGHT

122lbs/8st 10lbs

- 1 **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX** 16-0 (CUB)
- 2 **SCOTT FRAMPTON** 21-0 (NIR)
- 3 **CARL QUIGG** 31-0-2 (ENG)
- 4 **NONITO DONAIRE** 36-3 (PHL)
- 5 **KIKO MARTINEZ** 35-6 (SPA)
- 6 **GENESIS SERVANIA** 27-0 (PHL)
- 7 **ALBERT PAGARA** 25-0 (PHL)
- 8 **REY VARGAS** 25-0 (MEX)
- 9 **JULIO CEJA** 30-1 (MEX)
- 10 **MANUEL AVILA** 19-0 (USA)

BANTAMWEIGHT

118lbs/8st 6lbs

- 1 **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA** 24-0-2 (JPN)
- 2 **JUAN CARLOS PAYANO** 17-0 (DOM)
- 3 **ANSELMO MORENO** 35-4-1 (PAN)
- 4 **JAMIE McDONNELL** 27-2-1 (ENG)
- 5 **TOMOKI KAMEDA** 31-2 (JPN)
- 6 **LEE HASKINS** 32-3 (ENG)
- 7 **PUNGLUANG SOR SINGYU** 51-3 (THA)
- 8 **RAU'SHEE WARREN** 13-1 (USA)
- 9 **ZHANAT ZHAKIYANOV** 26-1 (KAZ)
- 10 **SURIYAN SOR RUNGVISAI** 46-6-1 (THA)

**SUPER-FLYWEIGHT**

115lbs/8st 3lbs

- 1 **NAOYA INOUE** 9-0 (JPN)
- 2 **OMAR ANDRES NARVAEZ** 44-2-2 (ARG)
- 3 **CARLOS CUADRAS** 34-0-1 (MEX)
- 4 **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI** 37-4-1 (THA)
- 5 **ZOLANI TETE** 22-3 (RSA)
- 6 **KOHEI KONO** 31-8-1 (JPN)
- 7 **NORBERTO JIMENEZ** 23-8-4 (DOM)
- 8 **LUIS CONCEPCION** 34-4 (PAN)
- 9 **McJOE ARROYO** 17-0 (PRI)
- 10 **DAVID SANCHEZ** 28-3-2 (MEX)

FLYWEIGHT

112lbs/8st

- 1 **ROMAN GONZALEZ** 44-0 (NIC)
- 2 **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA** 33-2 (MEX)
- 3 **AMNAT RUENROENG** 17-0 (THA)
- 4 **BRIAN VILORIA** 36-5 (USA)
- 5 **KAZUTO IOKA** 19-1 (JPN)
- 6 **JUAN CARLOS REVECO** 36-3 (ARG)
- 7 **MORUTI MTHALANE** 32-2 (RSA)
- 8 **EDGAR SOSA** 51-9 (MEX)
- 9 **McWILLIAMS ARROYO** 16-2 (PRI)
- 10 **NAWAPHON POR CHOKCHAI** 31-0 (THA)

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT

108lbs/7st 10lbs

- 1 **DONNIE NIETES** 37-1-4 (PHL)
- 2 **YU KIMURA** 18-2-1 (JAP)
- 3 **PEDRO GUEVARA** 26-2-1 (MEX)
- 4 **RYOICHI TAGUCHI** 23-2-1 (JPN)
- 5 **ALBERTO ROSSEL** 34-9 (PER)
- 6 **AKIRA YAEHASHI** 23-5 (JPN)
- 7 **JAVIER MENDOZA** 24-3-1 (MEX)
- 8 **REY LORETO** 20-13 (PHL)
- 9 **MOISES FUENTES** 23-2-1 (MEX)
- 10 **RANDY PETALCORIN** 23-1-1 (PHL)

STRAWWEIGHT

105lbs/7st 7lbs

- 1 **HEKKIE BUDLER** 29-1 (RSA)
- 2 **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN** 40-0 (THA)
- 3 **JOSE ARGUMENTO** 16-3-1 (MEX)
- 4 **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA** 30-8 (JPN)
- 5 **KNOCKOUT CP FRESHMART** 11-0 (THA)
- 6 **CARLOS BUITRAGO** 28-1-1 (NIC)
- 7 **XIONG ZHAO ZHONG** 26-6-1 (CHN)
- 8 **KOSEI TANAKA** 6-0 (JPN)
- 9 **DENVER CUELLO** 36-5-6 (PHL)
- 10 **BYRON ROJAS** 16-2-3 (NIC)

POUND-FOR-POUND

The best of the best

- 1 **MANNY PACQUIAO** 57-6-2 (PHL)
- 2 **ROMAN GONZALEZ** 44-0 (NIC)
- 3 **ANDRE WARD** 28-0 (USA)
- 4 **TIMOTHY BRADLEY** 33-1-1 (USA)
- 5 **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX** 16-0 (CUB)
- 6 **SERGEY KOVALEV** 28-0-1 (RUS)
- 7 **SAUL ALVAREZ** 46-1-1 (MEX)
- 8 **MIGUEL COTTO** 40-5 (PRI)
- 9 **GENNADY GOLOVKIN** 34-0 (KAZ)
- 10 **TERENCE CRAWFORD** 27-0 (USA) *[above]*

● If a fighter has been inactive for over a year, he will not be included in the rankings, unless he has a fight officially scheduled.

● Each fighter is ranked on the results they have achieved in their own specific weight division (excluding the pound-for-pound list).

● A fighter cannot be ranked in a specific weight division until he has competed in that division.

VESTED *INTEREST*

Meet the personalities
at the heart of the sport
With JOHN DENNEN

THE CHALLENGE



John Dennen

@BoxingNewsJD

Amateur Editor

Sandy Ryan on the tough tasks ahead of her in 2016

THE attention of all international boxers will turn to the Olympic Games this year. The first step on the road to Rio is winning selection for the national team and there is intriguing competition for the GB lightweight spot between Chantelle Cameron and Sandy Ryan. Cameron is leading the way, recently picking up the gold medal at the Olympic Test Event. Ryan does have World

championship silver and European Games bronze medals to her credit, although those came at 64kgs.

"She [Chantelle] got three golds on the spin, so she's performing at the minute and I had a bad end to the year," Ryan reflected. "I've got to perform and see what happens."

"I'm hoping to get to a tournament in February," she continued. "I'm just going to do everything I can, do well in sparring and perform this year. I had two weeks off over Christmas. So I'm physically and mentally recharged. That's

what I needed. I was boxing throughout the whole year... I think the break at Christmas has done me good."

'WHEN I'M MORE RELAXED, I BOX A LOT BETTER'

While she did box in the major women's tournament of 2015, the European Games, Ryan notes, "I was still not relaxing like when I'm in sparring. Relaxed, I box so much better. That's why this year I just need to bring that out and box how I spar."

"I think, especially at the end of the year, I was putting too much pressure on myself when I was getting in the ring. I was thinking, 'I've got to win this, I've got to win this.' In most of my bouts last year you could see I was too upright and when I'm more relaxed and I'm letting my shots flow, I box a lot better. That's what I'm aiming for this year."

She did win the GB championships in November, beating Welsh representative Charlene Jones. "She's very small for the weight so I just kept it long and just was hitting and moving basically, not letting her get in. I've boxed her three times now. It was similar to the others," Sandy said.

Before the Olympic Games, the Women's World championships take place in May in Kazakhstan. Ryan expects to compete in that event, and go one better than her 2014 gold medal, but it remains to be seen whether she'll do that at 64kgs or 60kgs, the Olympic weight. "That's the first dream, get a gold at the Worlds and hopefully go at 60kgs to qualify [for Rio 2016], so fingers crossed," she said.

Lightweight is a hugely competitive division. "You've got Katie Taylor and you've got Azerbaijan [Yana Alekseevna], she's quite new. I watched her in Baku, she gave Katie a run for her money," Ryan explained. "I think the only way to beat Katie Taylor, the likes of her, is to actually box. Not go in, putting the pressure on her. To try to beat someone like that you've got to have a better boxing brain than them. I feel if I bring it into the bouts I could give her a tough fight."

"The only person to try to outbox her was that Azerbaijan girl and it troubled Katie. I think you've got to dominate and look like you're dominating."

Ryan though is yet to spar or box Taylor. But she adds, "I believe this year it can be my year. I feel I can box at the high level against the top fighters."

BEST OF BRITISH:
Ryan [left] beats Jones
to win the GB crown



Photo: CHRIS BEVAN/GB



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WEB WISDOM

Just secured a bronze medal out at the Nations Cup in Serbia. Three tough bouts in four days, with two wins against Belarus and Morocco, but just missed out on a place in the final, losing a split 2-1 decision to Poland.

Dominica's VALERIAN SPICER is on her own road to Rio.

Been a great week this week being back in camp. I have all my goals set now and I'm over-excited with the plans put in place to achieve all of them. Woman On A Mission. NATASHA GALE is fired up and focused.

Breakfast is calling my name. I'm underweight so I'm going to overeat. Don't judge me. Boxer problems, as narrated by CLARESSA SHIELDS.

After a successful weekend I'll be representing my country against the Norwegian champ in Norway in two weeks.

Hoddesdon boxer, JORDAN REYNOLDS, is keeping busy.

KENNY DO IT?

QUICK-FIRE Q&A

Charlie aims to defend the new English title in Birmingham on Saturday (January 16)

DID you have a good year in 2015?

Yeah, I won the NABCs as well as the English title belt. 2015 was alright. It was a bit of a funny year. Entering the NABCs I was in a funny weight category, I went in at 60kgs and I was hitting about 57, 58. It was a risky chance but I went into it to get the fights, a bit more experience, just to get active. I dropped down to 56kgs for the English title [for which he stopped Woking's Nathan Grey].

What was Nathan Grey like as an opponent?

He's a very experienced boxer. He was tricky but I caught him with a body shot in the second round, it dropped him, he got a count. I was a bit pleased really.

York Hall has been the one place I wanted to box. It was a big one. I've always wanted to box there and I finally got the win there as well on the day; always a bonus.

Do you like the new title belts?

It gives us another opportunity to get out and get some more fights. I had a bout in March and then there was nothing until the NABCs. It gets me out outside of the championships, if you can't get any club bouts.

Who were your toughest opponents in the NABCs?

I found all of them a bit tricky, whether it was the extra weight and that. I was giving away quite a bit of weight. I boxed Jacob Kroot in the final. He was a good boxer. He was quite game, came forward, it was a tough fight really but I got the win.

How long have you boxed at Hoddesdon?

I won my first Schoolboy title there and then I moved to West Ham for about four years. I went back last year, about December time. It has been good. Sab [Leo] is a very dedicated coach and he just puts so much time into the boxers. There's loads of us now, getting titles and winning championships. There's always an

Photo: CHRIS BEVAN/ENGLAND BOXING



BIG WIN:
Kenny drops and defeats Grey for the English belt

atmosphere in the boxing gym. I've got good people to spar with.

When are you boxing next?

Birmingham on Saturday (January 16). I don't worry about who I'm boxing. You

can't worry about it. Once you're in there, there's not much you can do about it.

What are your targets for 2016?

I'm taking every bout as it comes and that is it.

MISSION 2016

We pick out a boxer who's planning on making an impact this year

UMAR SADIQ

A SEQUENCE of good bouts for these new English titles, including Charlie Kenny [see above] versus David Seymour (Bell Green) at 56kgs, will take place at the Irish Centre in Birmingham on Saturday (January 16).

A cracking contest on the show pits Repton light-heavyweight Umar Sadiq against Spennymoor's Reece Ellis. Sadiq won his 81kgs strap beating Basingstoke's Bryce Goodridge last month at York Hall. Earlier in 2015 Sadiq won gold at the Haringey Box Cup and is one to watch in the competitive domestic light-heavyweight division, one who could feature in the ABA championships this year.

Other England Title contests on this show are Cory O'Regan (Bradford College) versus Jack Wood (Wednesbury) at 60kgs, Nina Hughes (CSM) versus Raven Chapman (Arena) at 57kgs and Lauren Johnson (Woodensborough) versus Alex Trubit (Army) at 75kgs.



FAST FACTS

Age: 25

From: England

Stances: Orthodox
Titles: Haringey Box Cup gold, London ABA

AMATEUR SCENE

The very best action, previews and news from Olympic-style boxing

With JOHN DENNEN | @BoxingNewsJD

SEND us your club's news, results or upcoming events to john.dennen@boxingnewsonline.net or 020 7618 3478

Marlo Moore has some heavyweight backers, writes **Danny Flexen**

VIRGIL HUNTER, the trainer who has taken Andre Ward from a child to within touching distance of the pound-for-pound throne, believes he has found the next big thing in amateur super-heavyweight Marlo Moore, who won the US Olympic trials in December.

"Marlo Moore is my kid, we call him 'Deon' or 'D', I don't know who gave it to him," Hunter told *Boxing News* of the moniker. "He's only had a couple of years in competition, he dabbled as a young teen, but he was pretty much on his own. In the last year-and-a-half he's been so dedicated; I gave him the key to my gym and he's been in there every day. He's 25 now and has had around 15 amateur bouts; he's special. He's a strong puncher with either hand, he has a pro style and he'll hurt you; he's mean. I like 6ft 3in, 225-6lb heavyweights, not giants, as I think they've got stamina problems. Deon looks like a light-heavy."

Moore left home at 17, has slept rough and now looks after his daughter as a single dad. Marlo's dedication to his craft and adherence to the Hunter system have been key to his recent, rapid development.

"The main thing is that I was able to get him from scratch as I like to do," Hunter explained regarding a man who started boxing relatively late, at 15. "Deon is a mature young man, he's never been in a

Photo: USA BOXING



DEDICATION: Moore [pictured] trains in Hunter's gym every day

TALENT SPOTTED

nightclub. When you are able to start a fighter in your system, you both have an understanding from the very beginning. I need a fighter to embrace the discipline, and my slip-and-slide style that enables them

to be offensive and defensive at the same time."

Moore created significant buzz at the Trials, coming from behind to stop the favoured Darmani Rock – who had defeated him at the US

nationals back in January – in the third and final round of their contest, propelling the Californian into a final in which he again triumphed.

Moore must still make it to Rio 2016 and his opportunity to do so comes at the American qualifier, which takes place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from March 8–20. Between now and then, he and Hunter must weigh up continuing Marlo's mission in pursuit of Olympic glory or turning pro before the Games. The issue of Moore receiving instruction from Team USA coaches should he persist with the amateur code – and deviating from the system – worries Virgil.

"It concerns me because he's a loyal kid who does what he's told," Hunter said. "Andre [Ward] has been fighting since he was nine, so he knows what to do."

"Will he do better as a pro where I can bring him along? At this stage he understands my presence is more important."

DAVE PRATT REMEMBERED

Tom Hutton on the unsung hero who passed too soon

DAVE "STICKY" PRATT, the immensely popular head coach of Leicester Railwaymen's ABC, died suddenly on December 23, aged 53.

Pratt [inset] was a father of six, a grandfather of three, and sons Billy and George both boxed for the club he set up in 1987.

The club's biggest success was Pratt's nephew, Rendall "Two Tone" Munroe, who went on to challenge

for world honours in the professional ring.

"Without 'Sticky,' there would have been no 'Two Tone,'" said Munroe in tribute to his late uncle.

Pratt, incapable of being anything other than himself, was a tough-as-old-boots professional himself, compiling a 14-13-3 record between 1982 and 1989.

By his own admission, Pratt was too busy enjoying himself to take

his ring career too seriously, but on good nights, he still had enough to beat Peter Harris, the future British featherweight champion, and handed Kenny Jinks his first loss.

Pratt's funeral will be held at Gilroes Cemetery in Leicester on Friday, January 22 (2.15pm) and the family have asked that mourners wear green and red, the colours of Old Robin Hood and Leicester Railwaymen's ABCs.



FOUR NATIONS RATINGS

As of January 11. Compiled by **Malcolm Meredith & Daniel Herbert**

SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT 91&kgs

- 1 **JOE JOYCE** (Earlsfield)
- 2 **FRAZER CLARKE** (Burton)
- 3 **DEAN GARDINER** (Clonmel)
- 4 **JOSHUA QUAILEY** (Melton Mowbray)
- 5 **CHRISTIAN THUN** (Peacock)
- 6 **NATTY NGWENYA** (Army)
- 7 **DECLAN FUSCO** (South Durham)
- 8 **ABBAS ABADI** (Northside)
- 9 **JOHNATHAN PALATA** (Balham)
- 10 **OSSIE OMOREGIE** (Fitzroy Lodge)

HEAVYWEIGHT 91kgs

- 1 **DARREN O'NEILL** (Paulstown)
- 2 **RICARDO SLUE** (Fitzroy Lodge)
- 3 **KODY DAVIES** (Lion's Den)
- 4 **LAWRENCE OKOLIE** (Dagenham)
- 5 **JAMES BRANCH** (Repton)
- 6 **MIKE McKAY** (Hook & Jab)
- 7 **SIMON PENDLETON** (North Road Gym)
- 8 **CHEZ NIHELL** (Army)
- 9 **DANNY WILLIAMS** (Hayes)
- 10 **BERNARD O'REILLY** (Portlaoise)

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT 81kgs

- 1 **JOE WARD** (Moate)
- 2 **JOSHUA BUATSI** (South Norwood & Victory)
- 3 **THOMAS WHITTAKER-HART** (Rotunda)
- 4 **UMAR SADIQ** (Repton)
- 5 **CHRIS NEALON** (Army)
- 6 **BRYCE GOODRIDGE** (Basingstoke)
- 7 **JOHN NEWELL** (Boarshaw)
- 8 **ASHLEY VANZIE** (Platinum)
- 9 **SCOTT FORREST** (Springhill Boys)
- 10 **STEPHEN LAVELLE** (Hayfield)

MIDDLEWEIGHT 75kgs

- 1 **MICHAEL O'REILLY** (Portlaoise)
- 2 **ANTONY FOWLER** (Golden Gloves)
- 3 **TROY WILLIAMSON** (Darlington)

- 4 **FELIX CASH** (Guildford City)
- 5 **JORDAN REYNOLDS** (Hoddesdon BA)
- 6 **DAN WOLEDGE** (St Mary's)
- 7 **JACK LANGFORD** (Bideford)
- 8 **CONNOR WALLACE** (St Monica's)
- 9 **JOHN JOYCE** (St Michael's)
- 10 **JOHN DOCHERTY** (Byron)

WELTERWEIGHT 69kgs

- 1 **JOSHUA KELLY** (Houghton-le-Spring)
- 2 **STEPHEN DONNELLY** (All Saints)
- 3 **ADAM NOLAN** (Bray)
- 4 **CYRUS PATTINSON** (Birtley)
- 5 **DENNIS BROADHURST** (Doonhamers)
- 6 **CONOR LOFTUS** (Burmantofts)
- 7 **EKOW TABIRI-ESSUMAN** (Bilborough Comm.)
- 8 **CHRIS MBWAKONGO** (Lynn)
- 9 **JONATHON FRANCOIS** (Gym 01)
- 10 **KELVIN FAWAZ** (All Stars)

LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT 64kgs

- 1 **PAT McCORMACK** (Birtley)
- 2 **DEAN WALSH** (St Joseph's/Ibars)
- 3 **RAY MOYLETTE** (St Anne's)
- 4 **ALFIE PRICE** (Hoddesdon BA)
- 5 **SAM MAXWELL** (Salisbury)
- 6 **WAYNE KELLY** (Athlone)
- 7 **JAMES CLEARY** (Olympic)
- 8 **CRAIG McINTYRE** (Dennistoun McNair)
- 9 **DANIEL WRIGHT** (Tyldesley Centurions)
- 10 **JACOB GABRIEL** (Basingstoke)

LIGHTWEIGHT 60kgs

- 1 **DAVID OLIVER JOYCE** (St Michael's)
- 2 **JOE CORDINA** (St Joseph's)
- 3 **LUKE McCORMACK** (Birtley)
- 4 **SEAN McCOMB** (Holy Trinity)
- 5 **GEORGE BATES** (St Mary's)
- 6 **JACK WOOD** (Wednesbury)
- 7 **RYAN FILLINGHAM** (Army)

- 8 **ADAM COPE** (Gus Robinsons)
- 9 **NICO MORRISON** (Pembroke)
- 10 **CORY O'REGAN** (Bradford Police College)

BANTAMWEIGHT 56kgs

- 1 **MICHAEL CONLAN** (St John Bosco)
- 2 **QAIS ASHFAQ** (Huggy's)
- 3 **SEAN McGOLDRICK** (St Joseph's)
- 4 **CALUM FRENCH** (Birtley)
- 5 **PETER McGRAIL** (Everton Red Triangle)
- 6 **KURT WALKER** (Canal)
- 7 **STEVE BOYLE** (Dennistoun McNair)
- 8 **CHRIS BOURKE** (Balham)
- 9 **MARCEL BRAITHWAITE** (Golden Gloves)
- 10 **MYLES CASEY** (St Francis)

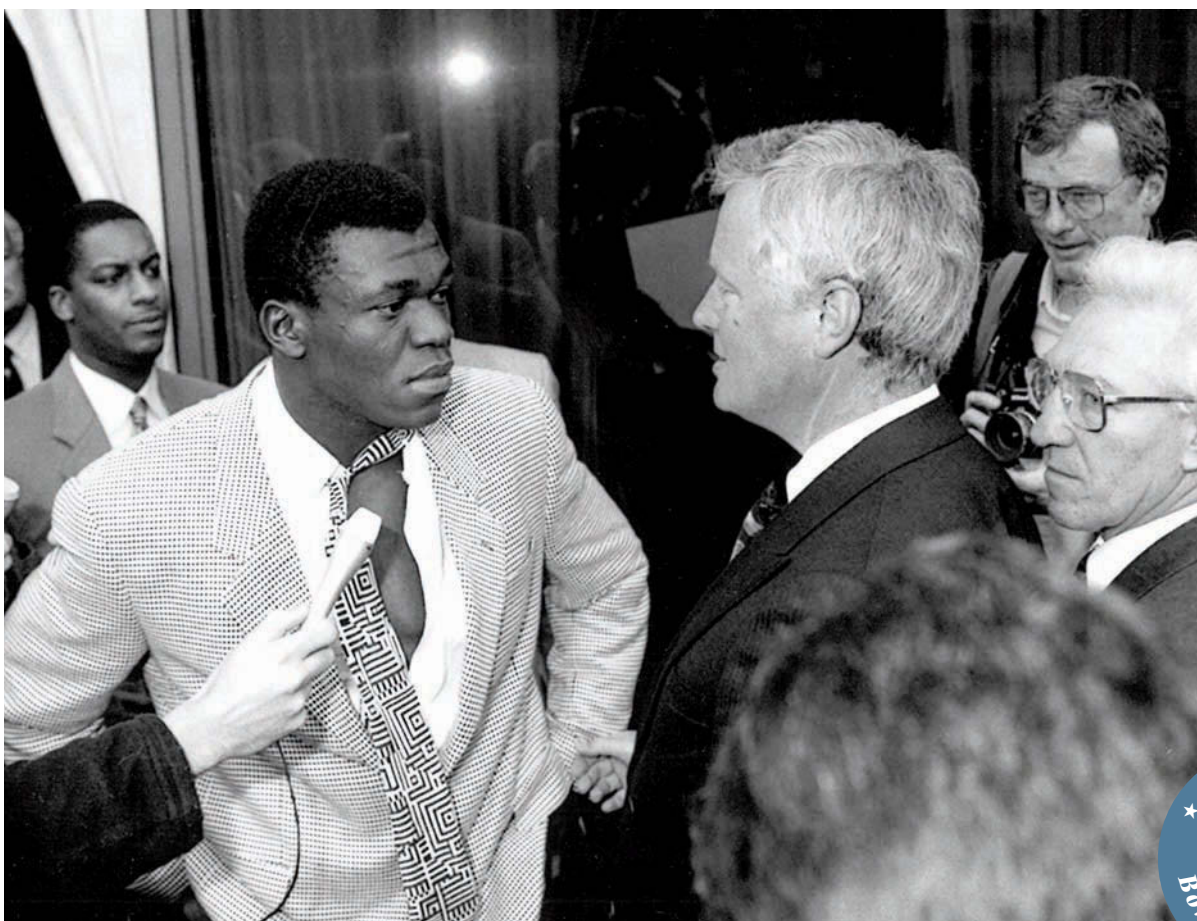
FLYWEIGHT 52kgs

- 1 **MUHAMMAD ALI** (Bury)
- 2 **REECE McFADDEN** (Forgewood)
- 3 **JACK BATESON** (Burmantofts)
- 4 **BRENDAN IRVINE** (St Paul's)
- 5 **BLANE HYLAND** (Salisbury)
- 6 **LUKE O'ROURKE** (East Durham)
- 7 **LOUIE LYNN** (Lynn)
- 8 **AKASH TUQIR** (Merridale)
- 9 **WILLIAM DONOGHUE** (St Michael's)
- 10 **THOMAS "TJ" WAITE** (Ormeau Road)

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT 49kgs

- 1 **PADDY BARNES** (Holy Family)
- 2 **HARVEY HORN** (Repton)
- 3 **SUNNY EDWARDS** (Steel City)
- 4 **AQEE AHMED** (Keir Hardie)
- 5 **JOE MAPHOSA** (Middlesbrough)
- 6 **GALAL YAFI** (Birmingham City)
- 7 **STEPHEN McKENNA** (Old School)
- 8 **BENN NORMAN** (Shepshed)
- 9 **MUZI FUYANA** (Middlesbrough)
- 10 **ANDREW WINTER** (Shildon)

Photo: ACTION IMAGES



RIP OFF:
The effects of the brawl with Bentt are clear to see as Hide [left] and Hearn talk to the media



BASEBALL CAP BRAWL

Herbie Hide and Michael Bentt brawl in the street, writes Kal Sajad

THERE were still two months to go before Norwich's 22-year-old Herbie Hide would challenge for Brooklyn-based Michael Bentt's WBO heavyweight belt in a stadium fight at Millwall FC's The Den.

But it seemed that neither man could wait that long. They came face to face for a press conference outside the Sheraton Hotel in London, where it was reported that Bentt threw punches

at the challenger after Hide knocked the Millwall baseball cap from the champion's head.

The brawl that followed left Hide visibly shaken, with buttons torn from his shirt. Promoters Bob Arum and Barry Hearn looked on in shock.

Bentt, 29, defended his actions: "You don't get anything for fighting outside the ring, but he compromised my manhood."

Although press conference bust-ups are all too familiar in boxing, this one was shown on the national news. We reported that the British Board of Boxing Control would need to come down hard on both fighters, and they did that, with both fined in the region of £10,000.

Hide would go on to get his revenge in the ring, winning the title with a seventh-round stoppage on March 19.

JONES EXTENDS RECORD

JUNIOR JONES retained his WBA bantamweight belt in his first defence with a unanimous 12-round decision over Colombian Elvis Alvarez in New York. Two judges scored the fight 120-108, with the third tabling 119-109 to the American.

Despite only being given one round across three scorecards, Alvarez certainly played his part. A former WBA champion himself, his awkward style caused Jones some trouble.

Sadly, it would be the last time

that Alvarez would enter the squared circle. On July 16, 1995 he was shot dead in his homeland.

With this victory, the champion recorded 32 straight wins, with 22 of those inside the distance.

The New Yorker would score the first of two famous victories over great Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera almost three years later.

His final record reads 50-6 (28), with his last outing being a 2002 loss to unheralded Ivan Alvarez in Pontiac, Michigan.

TSZYU US DEBUT

RUSSIAN-AUSTRALIAN Kostya Tszyu, 24 and a former amateur standout, wowed the American audience with an impressive display, beating Mexican Hector Lopez by a unanimous 10-round decision at Florida's Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Triumphing via scores of 97-93, 97-94 and a questionable 99-92, we observed that Tszyu "looked like a throwback to the greats of yesteryear."

He started the first three rounds slightly cautiously, but

was throwing good body shots, before employing his stiff jab to sting Lopez. The fight really came alive in the sixth round, with both fighters exchanging hard right hands.

Lopez, highly ranked by the WBC and WBA, came back into the fight, but started to tire in the later rounds and it was Tszyu who finished the stronger fighter.

It was just Tszyu's 11th professional contest, and he went on to claim the IBF title 12 months later.

THE SPECTACULAR LIFE OF JOHN GULLY



Alex Daley

@thealexdaley

**Historian
& author**

If asked to name a pugilistic politician, most would probably plump for former Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, a one-time amateur boxer who in 2001 famously punched a protester who had pelted him with an egg. But Prescott wasn't the first ex-boxer to become an MP, nor was he, by a long stretch, the best or most interesting.

That distinction belongs to John

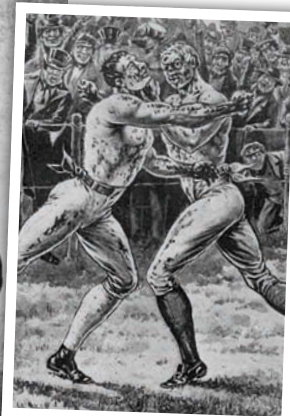
Gully, a champion of England who was a member of parliament for five years. These facts alone would make Gully a remarkable man, but there is more to his extraordinary life story.

A butcher's son born near Bristol in 1783, on his father's death John inherited the family business while still in his teens. Unsurprisingly, he ran up huge debts and when the firm folded in 1805 he was locked up in London's Fleet Prison, the same jail where Samuel Pickwick, of Charles Dickens' *The Pickwick Papers*, was incarcerated. Typically, an inmate would have to repay his creditors in full before being released, so Gully looked set for a long spell behind bars.

But his luck changed spectacularly when Hen Pearce, the reigning bare-knuckle champion of England, visited Fleet and asked Gully to box him in an exhibition. Gully, who had done some boxing but nothing of note, put up such a good display that some felt he had outboxed the champion. Consequently, a wealthy prizefighting patron offered to pay his debts and set him free on the condition he fight Pearce for the championship.

Thus Gully was forced into a profession for which he had talent but little liking. In keeping with the convention of the day, Gully was backed by a group of aristocratic patrons. He met Pearce for the championship on October 8, 1805 in a bare-knuckle fight in a field near Hailsham in Sussex. The Duke of Clarence (later King William IV) was among the attendees.

There was no time-limit then to rounds or bouts, and contests could last several hours. A round only ended when one or both men fell to the ground and wrestling was allowed. After 77 minutes and 64 rounds, Gully retired from this



UNTRODDEN PATH:
Scully's time as a boxer [far left] includes beating Gregson [above], and leads to a spell as an MP [left]

Gully was a prison inmate, business tycoon, MP and English boxing champion

brutal encounter in a state of exhaustion.

Nevertheless, his display drew admiration from the crowd and from Pearce himself, who on relinquishing his championship two months later named Gully as his successor. While not everyone accepted him as the champion, Gully cemented his position by beating challenger Bob Gregson of Lancashire in a gruelling battle two years after the Pearce fight. Gully had just one more bout, another successful defence against Gregson, before quitting the ring, aged 24, to run his own tavern, The Plough, at Lincoln's Inn Fields.

After setting up as a bookmaker, Gully

became a racehorse owner and made a fortune over many years with several big wins. In 1832 he was elected as MP for Pontefract in Yorkshire and kept his seat for five years. He retired to the life of a country squire, buying huge luxury homes and his own estate and colliery in County Durham, with shares in several other collieries. He died a fabulously rich man in March 1863, aged 79, having fathered 24 children from two marriages.

After rocketing up the social ladder, Gully deeply regretted those few years in his youth when he had been a prizefighter. Without boxing, however, the rest may have proved impossible.

EX-BOXER ASSOCIATION NEWS

Harry Scott funeral

REPORT received from Merseyside Former Boxers' Association secretary, Jim Jenkinson, on the funeral of Harry Scott, the world-class middleweight of the 1960s and '70s who was president of the association. Jim describes the turnout as "super", with ex-fighters such as John Conteh, Pat Dwyer, Joe Lally and Tony Smith in attendance, along with Kent-based boxing historian Harold Alderman MBE.

Jim writes: "The church was absolutely packed, as was the crematorium afterwards. Later, around

100 people attended the Park Hotel, Netherton, where a film of photographs of Harry was running on a continuous spool whilst some excellent refreshments were available. Members of our association, together with John Conteh, lined up outside the church as Harry's coffin was carried in, and everyone applauded him. It was a great send-off for a great fighter and a great friend. I will miss him."

Email exboxers@gmail.com with your ex-boxer association news.

ISAAC DOGBOE

Paul Wheeler talks to a Ghanaian royal

When and why you started boxing:

I was first introduced to the sport when I was about 14 years old. I was playing football at the time, and it wasn't going too well for me, so my dad said I should give boxing a try.

Favourite all-time fighter:

Muhammad Ali, Johnny Tapia, Barry McGuigan and Azumah Nelson are all on my list of favourite all-time fighters. They each had many great attributes, such as tenacity and aggression.

Best fight you've seen:

Marvin Hagler versus Thomas Hearns [a third-round stoppage win for Hagler in April 1985].

Personal career highlight:

Representing Ghana at the 2012 Olympic Games [at bantamweight], and currently being 12-0 (8) as a professional. For some reason, three of my fights that took place in Ghana haven't been included on my record on BoxRec, even though they were all sanctioned by the Ghana Boxing Authority.

Toughest opponent:

I haven't come across any yet.

Best and worst attributes as a boxer:

I'd rather not say what my strengths and weaknesses are, because I don't want to give anything away to my future opponents.

Training tip:

Train hard, fight easy.

Favourite meal/restaurant:

My favourite meal is chicken and chips from Nando's.

Best friends in boxing:

[Fellow pros] Carl Frampton, Anthony Joshua, Leo Santa Cruz, Dillian Whyte, Oscar Escandon, Victor Ortiz, Gabriel Rosado and Jessie Magdaleno.



'THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE WHO'S TRAINING HARDER'

Other sportsman you would like to be:

If I wasn't a boxer, I'd like to be a footballer.

Last film/TV show you saw:

[War drama film] *Beast of No Nation*.

Who would play you in a film of your life:

I'd pick Will Smith to play me.

Have you ever been starstruck:

When I met David Beckham and Chris Eubank.

Last time you cried:

When my grandfather passed away on April 6 last year.

Best advice received:

Make sure you train hard, because there's always someone out there who's training harder for the same goal.

Worst rumour about yourself:

That I lost by knockout in the 2012 Olympics. This isn't true [Dogboe was eliminated after losing 10-9 on points to Japan's Satoshi Shimizu in the round of 32].

Something not many people know about you:

I come from one of the royal families in Ghana.

FAST FACTS

Age: 21 **Twitter:** @royal_storm **Nickname:** 'Royal Storm' & 'Brave-Son'

Height: 5ft 2ins **Nationality:** Ghanaian-English **From:** Los Angeles, CA

Stance: Orthodox **Record:** 12-0 (8) **Division:** Featherweight **Titles:** WBO Africa & WBA Pan African **Next fight:** After defeating George Krampah on Boxing Day last year, Dogboe is aiming to maintain his unbeaten record in his next bout.

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TEL +44(0)20 7618 extension EMAIL firstname.surname@boxingnewsnewsonline.net FAX 020 7618 3400 SUBSCRIPTIONS 01371 851 888 EMAIL boxingnews@escosubs.co.uk

PUBLISHING MANAGER Danny Flexen 3098 EDITOR Matt Christie 3069 ART EDITOR Nick Bond 3071 ONLINE EDITOR John Dennen 3478 ASSISTANT EDITOR Paul Wheeler 3401

INTERN George Gigney 3072 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER Zoltan Nagy 3471 BN SHOP Patricia Applewhaite 3411 CREATIVE ARTWORKER Jason Swift

DIGITAL MARKETING ASSISTANT Tanika Callum 3472 PUBLISHING DIRECTOR Alex McLachlan 3077 MANAGING DIRECTOR Tim Whitehouse PRINTING Warners Midlands Plc

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